

## Egypt turns back Moroccan dissident

CAIRO (AP) — Airport officials refused to allow into Egypt writer Abdoulaye Diouri, a Moroccan dissident whose expulsion from France last year angered intellectuals and human rights groups. Colonel Mohammed Al Beheiry, an airport security official, denied Saturday that Mr. Diouri was turned back because his visa was "incomplete." The date of his rejection was unclear. He came to Cairo to attend an international literary conference that began Thursday. "Diouri is not blacklisted," Col. Beheiry said. "There was some information missing on his visa. That's all. He can go to an Egyptian consulate in the country of his residence to complete the data, then come back to Egypt."



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## King receives Omani message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Saturday at the Royal Court Chief of the Omani Royal Court Seifeddin Ben Hassan Ben Saad, who conveyed to him a message from Sultan Qaboos Ben Saad of Oman congratulating him over his recovery from the surgery he underwent last month and his safe return home. King Hussein asked the Omani envoy to convey his wishes of good health and happiness to Sultan Qaboos and of further progress and prosperity to the Omani people. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Omani Ambassador in Amman Mohammed Ben Sultan Ben Humour. The Omani envoy arrived in Amman earlier Saturday and was received by Dr. Karaki, Chief of Royal Protocol Mohammed Adwan and the Omani ambassador.

## UAE leader sends greetings to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Saturday a cable from President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayyan, who was passing through Jordanian airspace. Sheikh Zayed wished King Hussein good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

## Abu Jaber meets counterparts at U.N.

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber met Saturday with his Turkish counterpart and discussed with him the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Turkish relations. Dr. Abu Jaber, who is in New York to participate in the meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, also met with the foreign ministers of Sweden, Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Discussion at the meetings centred on Jordan's relations with these countries as well as issues of common interest. The meetings were attended by Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odheh.

## 5 new faces join Afghan cabinet

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan government has appointed five new ministers, including three from the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat Party which rejoined the government this week. Kabul Radio said in a report received Saturday. The decision to expand the 36-member cabinet was taken by the leadership council and endorsed by President Burhanuddin Rabbani, said the radio. The portfolios of commerce, mines and industry and social affairs were given to the Iran-backed Hezb-e-Wahdat faction, which rejoined the Islamic coalition government of former Mujahideen fighters this week. Hezb-e-Wahdat did not receive the powerful national security portfolio, which had previously been assigned. It pulled out of the government in July when the party was given to another party.

## Inquiry begins into 1988 Zia crash

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A judicial inquiry opened Saturday into the mysterious 1988 plane crash that killed military ruler Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, Pakistan's top general and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel. The three-member commission, headed by Supreme Court Justice Shafi Ur Rahman, will try to determine what caused the Aug. 17, 1988, plane crash and who might have been involved. The commission is expected to summon General Zia's closest aides, including his successor, retired Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, and several current and former military officers frequently named as suspects in the crash. Gen. Zia's C-130 military transport plane nosedived into the desert of eastern Punjab province shortly after takeoff. A military inquiry ruled the crash was probably sabotage, but follow-up investigations into who might be responsible were quashed.

## Palestinian delegation reaffirms unity of two banks of River Jordan

### King meets leaders of West Bank and Gaza Strip, voices deep appreciation of sentiments towards him

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation including mayors, former governors and notables from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday reaffirmed the unity of the West Bank and East Bank of the River Jordan remained as firm as ever.

The reaffirmation came during an audience with His Majesty King Hussein, who received the delegation at the Royal Court. The King returned home Thursday after undergoing a successful operation to address a urinary tract ailment last month and was greeted with an unprecedented outpour of emotions and sentiments by the people. An estimated one million people turned out in Amman streets to greet him.

The Palestinian delegation called at the Royal Court to congratulate the King on his successful surgery and return home, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King said he was overwhelmed by the profound feelings of affection from the people and their display of true alle-

giance and loyalty to the Hashemite throne, Petra said. "Thank God for giving me the gift of life and I am deeply grateful to you and content with the efforts and services I offered to my nation," the King said. "I hope, with God's will, I will continue to work and build with you so that we can serve as a model and an example for our brothers in this part of the world."

Petra also quoted him as saying that he had no objective in life other than fulfilling his duty to his nation and help it attain its aspiration.

King Hussein thanked the delegation for its good wishes and asked that his greetings and gratitude be conveyed to the Arab people under Israeli rule. He expressed hope that the ordeal of the people in the occupied territories will not last long.

Former Governor of Arab Jerusalem Anwar Al Khatib delivered an address on behalf of the delegation. He said King Hussein would remain a symbol of the unity of the two banks of the River Jordan and recounted the Hashemite family's defence of the occupied Arab land of Palestine.

The people of the two banks strongly adhere to the unity which they believe is as firm as ever," he said. Jordan severed legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in July 1980.

"While other countries force their people to go out on to the streets to welcome the leaders, the government in Jordan found it almost impossible to check the overjoyed masses than giving the streets," Mr. Khalib was quoted as saying by Petra.

Mansour Shawwa, head of the charitable organisations in the Gaza Strip, also voiced the Palestinian people's deep faith in the unity of Arab people on both banks.

Elias Freij, mayor of the West Bank city of Bethlehem, said the delegation wanted to pay respect to King Hussein and salute him on his safe return to his country.

"The majority of people in West Bank and Gaza Strip were concerned over the King's health situation and were praying to God Almighty to protect him," Mr. Freij added. Mr. Freij said that the Palesti-

nian entourage included notables from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including mayors, governors, engineers, doctors, businessmen, clergymen and university professors.

Meanwhile, Jordanian newspapers said that a group of 24 Arab residents of Israel are expected to make a similar gesture. Officials said the visit, the first time ever by an Israeli group, is expected to take place next week.

The Palestinian delegation was also received on Saturday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who welcomed the visitors and thanked them for their good wishes.

Speakers for the delegation voiced their absolute confidence in the King's leadership.

The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan organized a special celebration in which army officer and troops took part and speeches were delivered voicing support for the King.

PLA Commander Naim Al Khatib conveyed to the troops King Hussein's greetings and he praised the King's national stands with regard to the Palestine cause.

## Russian submarine said en route to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A Russian-built submarine purchased by Tehran has set sail and is expected to reach the Gulf in several weeks, according to a Pentagon source.

Russian officials have defended their sale of three non-nuclear submarines to Iran, saying the \$750 million deal gives Moscow much-needed capital to implement economic reform and might even improve stability in the Gulf.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the submarine is a Kilo-class, diesel-powered submarine that appears to be headed to the Iranian port of Shah-Bahar, located on the southern coast of Iran outside the Gulf.

The submarine appears to be managed by an Iranian crew, but Russians are also on board now, the source said.

The vessel was expected to travel from the Atlantic Ocean,

through the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, and Red Sea to the Arabian Sea, the source said.

The trip is expected to take about three weeks, the source said. "They're travelling at about three to four knots, rather slowly," the source said. "It's clearly a rookie crew."

But the entry of a modern submarine with a "significant warfare capability" in the Gulf where much of the world's oil is transported "is something we really don't like to see," said the source.

The newly-built submarine, while not as sophisticated as U.S. and Soviet nuclear-powered vessels, "is a good sub. It's modern, it's quiet, it's threat to be considered," the source said.

Up until now, the U.S. forces in the Gulf have not had to worry about the threat of attack from submarines, although all ships are trained to deal with the threat. So far, they have concentrated on

the threat from low-flying aircraft, missile boats and other anti-ship missiles.

Currently, there are 18 U.S. ships in the Red Sea, the Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the North Arabian Sea, the Pentagon says.

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger raised questions about the submarine sale in discussions Thursday in New York with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Mr. Eagleburger Friday defended the U.S. opposition to the sale despite Washington's own brisks arms trade.

He also said he was unaware of a reported trade problem that is said to have put the submarine deal on hold.

"I'm not sitting here and saying the Russians have no right to sell arms," said Mr. Eagleburger, whose own country is one of the world's major arms suppliers.

"If other countries (besides the United States) want to sell

weapons to recipients who would use them with care and wisely I think that would be a different situation for us," he told a news conference.

But "Iran has a certain position within the region and a certain relationship to terrorism that we consider to be anathema and under those circumstances we don't believe that arms should be sold to them," he added.

Russia is reported to be selling two or three diesel submarines to Iran which will be the first Gulf country to have them.

Mr. Kozyrev, brushing aside U.S. concerns, told reporters Thursday after discussing the matter with Mr. Eagleburger that Moscow's planned submarine sale to Iran was justified for strategic and economic reasons.

He also asserted that those sales would enhance stability and prevent further destabilisation in

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with a delegation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Petra photo)

## Tough talks expected in Abu Dhabi meeting on Iran-UAE dispute today

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran sent a negotiating team to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday for what officials predicted would be tough talks with the UAE over the future of a strategic Gulf island.

The talks opening Sunday will be the first between Iran and the UAE in their territorial dispute over Abu Musa and the nearby Greater and Lesser Tumbs islands, located close to the main oil tanker route in the Gulf.

Iran and UAE have shared control of Abu Musa under an agreement signed in 1971. Citing security reasons, Iran last March expelled all foreigners who operated essential services on the island for the UAE.

Since then, Iran has prevented foreigners from entering the island without Iranian permits. The measures led to the exodus of most of the 2,000 or so islanders and heightened Arab-Iranian tensions.

The UAE sees Iran's unilateral

takeover of security on the island and virtual annexation. Diplomats said the gulf between the two sides was wide, with neither appearing willing to make concessions.

"Talks will be tough," a UAE Foreign Ministry official said. "Both sides have different points of view and documents. I expect they're going to have a long, gloomy day."

As Iran's negotiating team headed by Mustafa Haeri Fomani, director of Gulf affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Abu Dhabi, statements in Tehran appeared uncompromising.

Majlis (parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying that Iran had sovereignty over Abu Musa.

"The provision of Abu Musa's security is the responsibility of Iran," he said.

Iran's ambassador in Abu Dhabi, Hassan Aminian, was upbeat.

"It will be resolved after all. We will clear it after all, after negotiations," he told reporters. Diplomats in the Gulf said no-one was certain about Iran's motives in Abu Musa but they speculated it may have seized the island to counteract the U.S. military presence in the area.

Since the Gulf war over Kuwait ended, Washington has signed defence pacts with three Gulf states. It keeps a naval presence of about 20 warships in the region.

Relations between Iran and the Gulf had started to improve after Tehran denounced Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), of which the UAE is a member, said this month that Iran's actions could have an adverse effect on its ties with the

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Hurds tells Velayati to resolve dispute, page 2

## Clinton widens lead

NEW YORK (R) — Democrat Bill Clinton widened his lead over President George Bush in the latest Time Magazine/CNN poll Saturday, a survey that also showed little impact if Ross Perot revives his run for the U.S. presidency.

The poll also showed that 62 per cent feel the Republican emphasis on Mr. Clinton's Vietnam war-era draft record is overrated and that 63 per cent feel Mr. Bush is lying when he says he was not involved in the Iran-contra arms-for-hostage deal during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

The poll, the first since reports of the possibility Mr. Perot would renew his third-party candidacy, put Mr. Clinton's lead at 49 per cent to 37 per cent over Mr. Bush without Mr. Perot.

If Mr. Perot, the Texas billionaire whose name is on all 50 state ballots, activates his campaign the poll said he would receive just 17 per cent, with Mr. Clinton at 43 per cent and Bush at 32 per cent.

With an inactive Perot campaign, the independent drew 13 per cent, with 44 per cent for Mr. Clinton and 32 per cent for Mr. Bush.

Fifty-seven per cent said they felt Mr. Bush had no real programme to help the American economy, but 72 per cent said they thought Mr. Clinton would raise taxes.

The poll showed strong negative feelings about Mr. Perot, who dropped out of the race in July, with 25 per cent viewing him favourably and 46 per cent with an unfavourable impression.

Mr. Clinton's favourability rating was 50 per cent, with 34 per cent negative. Mr. Bush was seen as favourable by 43 per cent and negative by 45 per cent.

A month ago, the same survey had Mr. Clinton with an overall lead of 46 per cent to 40 per cent.

Bush tries to put his bid on track, page 8

## Iraq agrees to relief programme for Kurds

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Baghdad, in what appears to be a political shift, has agreed in principle to a substantial international relief programme to get food, fuel and medicine to Kurds in northern Iraq before the winter months set in. U.N. officials have confirmed.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf explored the possibility of new talks on limited oil sales to pay for its own relief supplies.

But in talks with diplomats he suggested \$4 billion in sales, far more than the Security Council had authorised.

The officials said Mr. Sahaf in Thursday discussions with U.N. Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson had consented to a "winter programme" to bring food, fuel and medicine to Kurds in the north before harsh weather sets in.

This would mean that U.N. relief agencies and guards to protect them would enter the country legally.

Otherwise, the United States would make sure the United Nations and the allies brought in the supplies anyway.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, at a press conference in New York, said, "as far as the United States is concerned the Security Council should be prepared to authorise delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Kurds even if the Iraqi government doesn't consent."

Mr. Sahaf told Mr. Eliasson that the programme for the Kurds could go ahead only if the United Nations ships aid to the entire country, not just the northern Kurdish zone.

Iraq's trade minister on Friday insisted that there is no need for food shipments to the northern Kurdish region.

"There is no hunger problem in Kurdistan," Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh said in Baghdad.

Baghdad is also seeking to renegotiate the "memorandum of understanding" between Iraq and the United Nations governing the U.N.'s working conditions and rights in the country.

Baghdad is not issuing visas and travel permits for U.N. staff who would have to conduct advance surveys for the programme.

Mr. Eliasson's humanitarian affairs office is still trying to make satisfactory arrangements with Baghdad, the official said.

Negotiations have bogged down on two points. U.N. officials said. U.N. officials want unrestricted access to any part of Iraq at any time to deliver aid, and Baghdad wants to restrict access.

In addition, U.N. officials believe they will need regional offices outside Baghdad to administer the programme, but Iraq's government wants the U.N. offices limited to Baghdad.

The United Nations would prefer to have Iraq's cooperation with the relief programme, but under post-Gulf war Security Council resolutions, U.N. agencies may cross Iraq's borders to help the Kurds, as well as the Shiite rebels in the southern marshes.

After the Gulf war, Iraqi Kurds tried to overthrow the government, but failed and retreated to the north ahead of advancing Iraqi tank columns.

The Security Council is discussing a draft resolution that would use seized Iraqi oil funds to pay for humanitarian programme, as well as war reparations.

The money — most of it held in American banks — would also be used to pay for teams monitoring the destruction of Iraq's weapons programmes.

Western sources Thursday predicted passage within two weeks.

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Iraq launches crackdown on moneychangers, page 2



## Iraq launches crackdown on moneychangers to stabilise dinar

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi government has launched a crackdown against moneychangers aimed at controlling fluctuations of the Iraqi dinar, blamed to a large extent for a dramatic decline in the flow of essential goods to the country, Iraqi sources said Saturday.

"One of the priorities of the government now appears to be allaying businessmen's fears that they risk major losses if the dinar continued on its roller-coaster course," said an Iraqi businessman based in Amman.

According to the businessmen and other Iraqi sources, the actions adopted by the government included detention of moneychangers after raids on their premises and seizure of currency and stricter inspection at the border posts to check currency smuggling.

The sources could not confirm reports that over 30 moneychangers were executed after they were found to have speculated with the Iraqi dinar, which has been plummeting since the end of the Gulf war in February last year.

The exchange rate before the war was between four and five Iraqi dinars to the dollar in the black market while the official rate was \$3.12 to the dinar. The Iraqi currency steadily lost its value in the black market since then, and was being traded two weeks ago between 40 and 45 dinars to the dollar.

"In the last one week, the rate fallen to around 25 dinars to the

dollar in the wake of the strict government action, which included the busting of a major group which used to sell counterfeit dinars in the market," said a traveller from Baghdad.

Reports in the Iraqi press have indicated that the government believes that the flooding of the market with fake dinars — attributed to the anti-Iraq Western coalition — is largely responsible for the instability of the currency.

Iraqi sources in Amman noted that during several recent meetings with senior Iraqi officials, Amman-based Iraqi as well as Jordanian businessmen had emphasised that they were not interested in doing business with Iraq unless the Baghdad government restored a stable exchange rate of the dinar.

They argued that the dramatic ups and downs of the currency against the American dollar left them vulnerable to huge losses. "The same point was also made by businessmen based in Turkey and Iran" — two other sources of foodstuffs for Iraq, said a Jordanian merchant.

The last meeting between a senior Iraqi official and Amman-based businessmen took place on Sept. 18 when Minister of Trade Mohammad Mehdi Saleh met with a group of Jordanian traders in Amman.

Fears triggered by executions of Iraqi merchants accused of profiteering in July coupled with the uncertainty over the dinar have dramatically reduced the flow of goods from Jordan to Iraq.

Baghdad had been trying since mid-August to assure the terrified businessmen that the July executions were a "one-time affair" and were carried out only in cases where merchants were "exploiting" the chaos in Iraq, which is straining under international sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions. The Iraqi government has not issued any statement on the currency situation, but indications that a crackdown could be in the offing came earlier this month when Babel, a daily published by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, called on Baghdad to stabilise the sea-sawing dinar.

However, the paper appeared to criticise the executions carried out in July and caution against any such further actions. Merchants should be punished, it said, but "not all of them."

"Would be not helping them to reinvent themselves and become a strong force again?"

"For many guilty Iraqis, it's better to show them the pistol than to direct it against them.... this kind of approach would work."

Experts on Iraq said it was highly unlikely that the government, reeling back from the backlash of the July executions, would resort to further similar action. "It will only further erode everyone's confidence and push businessmen away from resuming trade in the Iraqi market," noted a former Iraqi diplomat now resident abroad.

## Tension escalates in Somalia's northern capital

By Didrikke Schanche  
The Associated Press

NAIROBI — Rising clan tensions, looting and banditry threaten to broaden into full-scale warfare in Somalia's nominally independent north, according to aid officials and visitors.

One aid official said he feared the region, known as the "Somaliland Republic," could go the way of Somalia's south, where drought and warfare have combined to create a catastrophic famine that has killed more than 100,000 and threatens millions.

Differences between rival groups within the region's dominant Isaaq clan have become pronounced in the capital, Hargeisa, which is essentially divided into two, according to recent visitors.

The highland city's south side is ruled by the president's and allied sub-clans. The other side of town is controlled by rival groups allied with rebel leader Dago Weyne, who also controls the region's deep-sea port of Berbera.

Looting and banditry, common on the region's roads, have increased dramatically in Hargeisa in recent weeks, with the most dangerous gunfight being the road from the airport into town, aid officials said.

Sporadic gunfire is heard in the city day and night and the use of heavy weapons has increased. In the last two weeks, the rival clans have engaged in at least two extended nighttime exchanges of mortar and artillery fire,

said Lucy Hammon, a reporter for the British Broadcasting Corporation, who just spent three weeks in the region.

However, the sparring groups are attempting to reconcile their differences through a committee of clan elders who hope to have a truce agreement ready for signing next week, said Ms. Hammon.

"They seem to be making a quite strenuous effort," she said.

Although the rest of the region is relatively calm, Ben Foot of Save the Children Fund — U.K. — warned that it could deteriorate into full-blown clan warfare if denied international assistance.

Many aid officials say that if southern Somalia had more assistance last year as it emerged from the dictatorial rule of overthrown dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, it would not be the disaster it is today.

"The bottom line is the north isn't anything like as bad as the south, but the ingredients are there," said Mr. Foot, speaking from Save the Children's regional headquarters in Nairobi.

He said the main difference between the regions was food — the south does not have any and must rely on international handouts, while the north continues to live off commercial imports, much from an untraditional source.

While some of the north's supplies come through trade through Berbera, on the Gulf of Aden, much of its food is from looted international aid stocks provided to Somali refugees living in camps in neighbouring Ethiopia.

"All we need is a deterioration in the food supply and I think we would have open warfare pretty rapidly," said Mr. Foot.

Save the Children has done several nutritional surveys and found only moderate malnutrition among the region's children, said Foot.

John Newman, of the humanitarian agency Care, offered a less dire analysis, saying Hargeisa was increasingly tense, but unlikely to blow up into war.

After a decade-long rebellion trying to unseat Mr. Siad Barre, the Isaaq "are pretty sick of fighting," said Mr. Newman. "They're just tired of it."

Although tensions are high among the competing sub-clans, he said he believed it will deteriorate to the extreme that has occurred in southern Somalia.

"Somaliland Republic" is a former British protectorate inhabited primarily by members of the Isaaq clan, which provided the backbone of the rebel Somali National Movement's 10-year war against Mr. Siad Barre.

The region seceded after Mr. Siad Barre's January 1991 overthrow by the United Somali Congress, a rebel group dominated by the southern Hawiye clan.

Somaliland, which is not recognised internationally, for months avoided the clan warfare that engulfed Somalia's south and helped cause the massive famine currently killed thousands daily.

Between December and March, however, rivalries intensified between Isaaq sub-clans.



A Somali woman protects her child's face from flies outside a feeding centre at a refugee camp near the Somalia-Kenya border

Looting increased in the region's major towns and heavy fighting between the president's militia and forces loyal to rebel leader Dago Weyne erupted early this year in the port city of Berbera, causing thousands to flee into the surrounding bush. Dago Weyne was driven

out of the town around May, but returned to drive the president's forces from the city and Berbera in August. Since then, President Abdurrahman Ahmad Ali has become increasingly isolated, with Dago Weyne's allies controlling the main road from the coast up to 30 kilometres from Hargeisa.

## Egypt berates Israel over arms race

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Egypt's foreign minister Friday criticised Israel for refusing arms inspections but praised Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for creating a positive atmosphere in the Middle East peace talks.

In a speech to the General Assembly, Amr Musa also criticised Iran's virtual annexation earlier this year of Abu Musa island, which lies half way between Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Without mentioning Israel by name, he said that one state in the Middle East had put its nuclear arsenal outside the framework of international inspections.

"The existing exception of one state is causing many security concerns, particularly as we know that this exception enables one state in the Middle East to pos-

sess nuclear weapons without any international restrictions.

"It also enables this state, which possesses a massive arsenal of military industries to be engaged in a process of missile development in a way that makes it an ensnared exception in the framework of the disarmament process," he said.

On the peace talks, the Egyptian minister said Mr. Rabin "had moved in the right direction, dissipating clouds of uncertainty and making way for hope and optimism."

"But he said the content of the talks was as important as the atmosphere, particularly since Arab states, mainly Syria, had agreed to enter into comprehensive peace agreements with Israel."

Israel, he said, needed to withdraw from international boundaries

and recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The minister also criticised Iran's occupation of Arab islands, a reference to Abu Musa and two smaller islands in the Gulf. "This we cannot overlook or ignore," he said. Tehran should reconsider its position and "restore the situation to the status quo ante."

Mr. Musa expressed concern about the fate of the Iraqi people and said the international community should ensure the country did not fragment and "Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of her people" were protected.

The United States and its allies have instituted no-fly zones for Iraqi aircraft in areas occupied by Kurdish dissidents in the north and Shiites in the south, leading to fears in the Arab World that both areas could be detached from the present Iraqi state.

## 4 hurt in bomb attack in Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Four Lebanese civilians were wounded when unidentified assailants threw a bomb at their flat in this southern port city, security sources said Saturday.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomb attack occurred just before midnight (2100 GMT) Friday. He identified the victims as Wajdan Mousa, his daughter Iman, and Malak and Mirna Shehadeh.

A former official of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) Fatah mainstream guerrilla group, called Abu Nidal Kurdi, lived in that flat until he left Lebanon July last year. The apartment was purchased by the Shehadehs.

The source said the assailants might not have known that Kurdi had vacated the apartment. Ten Palestinian officials have been killed and two critically wounded in Lebanon and Europe in the latest spate of the continuing blood feud between Fatah and the dissident Fatah-Revolutionary Council headed by Abu Nidal.

The spiralling violence began on June 8, when Atef Bseiso, the PLO's intelligence chief, was shot dead outside a Paris hotel. No responsibility claims were made by either side on the killings, but each party has accused the other of carrying out the murders for Israel's Mossad secret service.

The PLO on Thursday sentenced to death three Abu Nidal men convicted by a guerrilla court of slaying loyalists of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat has been at loggerheads with Abu Nidal since he broke away from Fatah and formed his dissident faction in 1973.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### International body urges Mideast confederation

GENEVA (R) — An international body working for world peace said Friday it had urged Israel and Morocco to pursue suggestions they might be ready to promote the idea of confederation in the Middle East. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), which has branches in some 40 countries, said letters had been sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hassan who recently indicated they supported the proposal. IFOR Geneva spokesman David Littman said recent statements from both and from Palestinian spokesmen indicated the idea of a confederation that would include Israel, Palestine and Jordan was gaining ground. "That is why we have sent these letters. We hope they will lead to further consideration of the idea," Mr. Littman told Reuters. Mr. Littman said IFOR would pursue its own worldwide campaign, especially at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, "towards this goal of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East, leading ultimately to a confederation."

### Kenya says plane seized by Somali rebels

NAIROBI (R) Kenya said Saturday one of its military helicopters and three crew had been seized by men of Somalia's fiercest warlord after pilot lost his way. The Somalia National Alliance, a faction loyal to warlord General Farah Aidid, said the helicopter had attacked the central town of Bardere on Wednesday, causing "lots of damage and deaths." The Kenyan Foreign Ministry described claims of attack on Bardere, which served as Gen. Aidid's bush headquarters for five months this year, as "rubbish." Given Somalia's current situation, "when the country is near ruin, we cannot even remotely consider fighting it," said senior Foreign Ministry official James Simani. Kenyan military officials told reporters they were negotiating with Gen. Aidid, through the International Red Cross for the release of the impounded plane and its crew. "The plane developed engine trouble and lost its course, straying into Somalia territory," Kenyan officials said. Gen. Aidid has accused Kenya of harbouring soldiers loyal to fallen dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, whom he helped oust in January 1991 before turning on his former ally, self-declared President Ali Mahdi Mohammed. Feuding between the two warlords has reduced the Horn of Africa country to ruin. Some 400,000 Somalis have taken refuge in neighbouring Kenya.

### Yemen president pledges democracy, better life

SANAA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh has pledged on the eve of the 30th anniversary of Yemen's revolution to stick to the path of democracy and development. "We stress on the right of the people to choose their representatives in the parliament freely and to free from any act of violence or terror," Mr. Saleh said referring to parliamentary elections due in November, the first in unified Yemen. In a speech broadcast on radio and television, he urged all political parties and organisations to "coordinate their efforts to positively take part in the elections and deepen the exercise of democracy." Mr. Saleh told Yemenis to stand firm despite a recent series of explosions and assassination attempts against senior officials.

## Aide to charged financier confirms deceptions at BNL

ATLANTA (Agencies) — A former vice president at the Atlanta branch of Italian bank group Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) has confirmed that he worked with indicted branch chief Christopher Drogoul to deceive auditors over improper loans to Iraq.

Mr. Drogoul is undergoing a sentencing hearing in U.S. district court here on a 60-count federal indictment charging him with fraudulently setting up \$5 billion in unauthorized loans to Iraq. The authorities say he then hid the loans from auditors by means of an illegal paper trail.

The unusual hearing is meant to determine Mr. Drogoul's sentence. But Mr. Drogoul, who had previously pleaded guilty to the charges, now says he is innocent. The judge in the case has refused his request for a trial.

Questioned at the hearing by assistant U.S. Attorney Gale McKemie, former bank Vice President Paul von Wedel said the two had taken several steps to deceive auditors.

Mr. Von Wedel said "Yes" when asked by Mr. McKemie if Mr. Drogoul asked him to move sensitive documents from the office just before a visit by internal BNL auditors. BNL is owned by the Italian government.

Mr. Von Wedel said that in one case, he and Mr. Drogoul discussed possible methods of concealment while meeting in a shopping centre parking lot.

He said that he and his colleague did this because they were afraid their office phone might be tapped.

Mr. Von Wedel also added that to conceal the illegal loan activity from auditors, the BNL Atlanta branch used forged audit confirmations, and communication written on fake letterhead.

"Everyone in the office was pitching in (to the general

effort)," he said.

Mr. Von Wedel also confirmed a scheme to throw auditors off the trail by "sending them off" with requests to examine documents for other, legal loans.

"That kept them busy," Mr. Von Wedel told the court.

At one point Mr. Von Wedel said he heard Mr. Drogoul say "Out loud, 'I can't believe this charmed life I'm living.'"

The former chairman of BNL has decided against testifying in the bank fraud sentencing, an attorney said Friday.

"He has declined the judge's invitation," said BNL attorney Bruce Kirwan. Mr. Kirwan said he had spoken through an interpreter with Giacomo Pedde, who resigned as BNL chairman in 1989 amid the loan scandal.

Mr. Kirwan, who is not involved in the Atlanta sentencing case but has been attending the hearing, was asked this week by U.S. District Judge Marvin Shoob to locate Mr. Pedde and determine if he would come here.

On Thursday, Mr. Shoob said he had been notified Mr. Pedde told an Italian newspaper he was available to testify. The judge instructed lawyers to prepare for his appearance.

But Mr. Kirwan said Mr. Pedde told him last Thursday he does not wish to discuss BNL any further.

"He's already given testimony to the federal grand jury and to the (Italian investigative) senate committee," Mr. Kirwan said.

The development Friday came as the second week of testimony concluded in the sentencing.

Prosecutors have recommended a stiff sentence for Mr. Drogoul. Defence attorneys contend U.S. government officials and BNL in Rome knew of the loans, and made Mr. Drogoul a scapegoat when authorities began investigating.

## Hurd tells Velayati to end Gulf feud

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain hopes talks this weekend between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa will remove "the strong anxieties felt by our Arab friends," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told his Iranian counterpart on Friday.

Mr. Hurd conveyed this message during a 75-minute meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati that covered a wide range of issues.

The foreign secretary told reporters these included the Middle East, Yugoslavia, the former Soviet Union, and bilateral relations.

The two ministers meet annually while attending the U.N. General Assembly.

Iran earlier this year virtually annexed Abu Musa, which lies half way between Iran and the

UAE. The two countries had shared control under a 1971 agreement that allowed Iran to set up a garrison on the island which until then was controlled solely by Sharjah, one of seven Gulf sheikhdoms that later formed the UAE.

The dispute has caused concern, particularly among Gulf states, and has been referred to in several speeches to the U.N. assembly.

Asked whether he discussed it with Mr. Velayati, Mr. Hurd said the Iranian foreign minister gave a lengthy account of Tehran's position.

Hurd added: "I expressed the hope that the discussions they (the Iranians) are having with the UAE will be successful in removing the strong anxieties felt by our Arab friends."

This was a reference to talks

which officials from the two countries are due to hold Sunday in Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital.

Mr. Hurd said the case of British author Salman Rushdie was mentioned, "but there has been no change in the respective positions."

Mr. Rushdie was sentenced to death in 1989 by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for blasphemy against Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses". He has since been living under police protection.

Britain and Iran renewed diplomatic relations in 1980 at the level of charges d'affaires after an 18-month break because of the Rushdie affair.

Mr. Velayati told reporters he had held a "very constructive and frank discussion" with Hurd covering bilateral, regional and international issues.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Michael Vaillant  
17:35 Des Chiffres et des lettres  
18:15 La Classe Ann Chennons  
18:30 News French  
19:15 The Scientific Magazine  
20:30 Coach  
21:10 Documentary: Japan Dreaming  
22:00 News in English  
22:20 Midnight Caller "Play Blots and Die"

### PRAYER TIMES

05:44 Fajr  
06:22 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:07 Dhuhr  
15:53 'Asr  
18:35 Maghrib  
19:30 'Isa

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich  
Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 61757  
Terrence Church Tel. 62366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630831, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 653326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of the Nazarenes Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be chance for scattered showers of rain in the northern parts of the country. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman 12/12  
Aqaba 20/31  
Djersa 10/25  
Jordan Valley 19/29

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

mus 24, Aqaba 33, Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Salama Al Daboubi 776751  
Dr. Rami Mizarwi 894788  
Dr. Joseph Smith 770560  
Dr. Saoud Ali (-)  
First pharmacy 661912  
Rendown pharmacy 778336  
Al Asana pharmacy 637055  
Nairouki pharmacy 636672  
Al Salama pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 649495  
Shuqran pharmacy 637660  
Fifth circle pharmacy 813141  
Sami pharmacy 661898  
Tala pharmacy 621366  
Yafa pharmacy 624425  
Al Asana pharmacy 777112  
Al Asana pharmacy 898681  
Fistina pharmacy 771957  
IBNH:  
Dr. Amin Abu Eida 244468  
Alqada pharmacy (-)

ZAQQA:  
Dr. Rajah Say 901290  
Khafila pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 864402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Police Complaints 605800  
Water and Sewerage 661776  
Complaints 87467  
Amman Municipality 771111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 62101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 771111  
Radio Jordan 774111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2  
Khafila Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6  
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 64441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 64262  
Mallat, J. Amman 63140  
Palestine, Shuqran 664714  
Shuqran Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 645845  
Al-Musalla Hospital 667225  
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664146  
Rifaa, Al-Mudajra 771015  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771111/26  
Army, Marfa 891611/15  
Queen Abla Hospital 6274030  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZAQQA:  
Zaqra Govt. Hospital (09)83332  
Zaqra National Hospital (09)50350  
Rn-Sila Hospital (09)80732  
Al Hiba Modern Hospital (09)99990

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Jeddah (RJ)  
18:10 Larnaca (RJ)  
18:15 Athens (RJ)  
18:20 Damascus (RJ)  
18:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
18:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
18:40 Cairo (RJ)  
18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:00 Madrid (RJ)  
05:30 Brussels (RJ)  
05:45 Rome (RJ)  
05:50 New Delhi (RJ)  
06:00 Damascus (RJ)  
06:10 Athens (RJ)  
06:20 Frankfurt (RJ)  
11:00 Aqaba, Rome (RJ)  
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:00 Rome (RJ)  
12:10 Vienna (RJ)  
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:10 Athens (RJ)  
13:45 Cairo (RJ)  
21:50 Jeddah (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:30 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)  
18:40 Moscow (SU)  
18:55 Larnaca (CY)  
19:00 Cairo (MS)  
19:35 Beirut (ME)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:40 Beirut (ME)  
19:00 Doha, Bahrain (GF)  
19:05 Moscow (SU)  
19:15 Larnaca (CY)  
19:35 Cairo (MS)

#### MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in lbs per kg  
Apples (red) 650/250  
Bananas 300/430  
Bananas (Mukamas) 330/400  
Beans 400/330  
Cabbage 130/80  
Carrot 400/250  
Cauliflower 250/200  
Cucum



## Astronomy conference opens at U.J.

AMMAN (Petra) — Astronomers from six Arab states including Jordan gathered at the University of Jordan (U.J.) Saturday for the first Arab Astronomers Conference, organised by the university's Physics Department and the Jordanian Astronomers Society (JAS).

The organisers said that delegates from Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria will review 50 research papers dealing with astronomy in the modern age, and old and modern theories in astronomy.

In an address to the meeting, which was opened by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra, on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, U.J. President Fawzi Gharaibeh outlined the university's continued endeavours to promote scientific research in Jordan.

According to Mr. Khalil Qusbi, the JAS president, the society, which was established in 1987, aims at building bridges of cooperation between Jordanian and Arab scientific and academic institutions.

He said the society was aiming at establishing a special astronomy institute in Jordan to teach astronomy in schools, community colleges and universities and to establish a modern observatory centre for planetary studies in the Kingdom.



A general view of Salt city (file photo)

## Queen Noor opens seminar on preserving Salt architectural heritage

SALT (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened a seminar on the preservation of the architectural heritage of Salt, organised by the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

SDC board member Anis Mousher delivered an address thanking the Queen for her patronage of the event and for her continued support for the corporation's projects.

Mr. Mousher said that the architectural heritage of Salt, which served for some time as home for the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, is part



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday listens to a briefing about efforts to preserve architectural heritage in Salt (Petra photo).

of the Jordanian and Arab heritage.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Ensour paid tribute to the Queen for her personal involvement in supporting the corporation's activities and the "ongoing endeavours to protect the architectural heritage of the city and its ancient buildings."

RSS President Hani Mulki said in a speech that the RSS' programmes aim in part to document the country's architectural heritage and to protect the heritage of Salt.

Dr. Seif Maath from the RSS referred to a plan to help develop the central and ancient parts of

the city, saying that the RSS and the SDC were joining hands to achieve that objective with financial help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He said that 657 old buildings in the city will be preserved through the project.

The one-day seminar focused on reviewing studies on renovation and restoration of old buildings, surveys and research studies on the city's architecture.

The Queen visited the Toukan Family's ancient residence, which was given to the municipality to serve as a municipal centre and a museum.

## Tafleeh resident walks 230-km to greet King

AMMAN (Petra) — A young man from Bseira in the Tafleeh Governorate walked four days and nights, a distance of 230 kilometres, to reach Amman from his hometown in order to meet with His Majesty King Hussein following his return from a successful surgery in the United States.

The man, Hamad Ismail Al Saoudi, 22, who was received by the King at the Royal Court Saturday noon, appeared with swollen feet and near exhaustion when he arrived at the Royal Court from Bseira and said he had turned down offers for lifts by passing vehicles on the way.

The King thanked Mr. Saoudi for his "great spirit and noble initiative" and praised his efforts and endurance.

Mr. Saoudi said that "it was not too much to offer four days of sacrifice and hard work for the King in return for his four decades of relentless efforts to serve his people and the Arab Nation."

Mr. Saoudi had made a vow to cross the distance on foot, stopping only to eat or drink and to arrive at the Royal Court to offer his congratulations to the King on his safe return to Amman.

A Royal Court official told the Jordan Times that Mr. Saoudi was later taken to a military clinic for treatment of his feet. He said Mr. Saoudi was in good condition.

## Celebrations of King's return continue

AMMAN (Petra) — Popular rallies to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's return home continued in various governorates Saturday.

Towns and villages throughout the Balqa Governorate were decorated and posters and flags were raised to welcome the King back. School children and scouts organised street processions.

Similar festivals were held in Irbid where a festival of poetry recital and a paintings exhibition were organised at the main town-shall to celebrate the King's safe return home.

Saleh Hassan Salameh Saturday started a walk from Irbid to Amman in a show of joy over the King's recovery.



University of Jordan students Saturday organise a rally to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's safe return home (Petra photo)

In Madaba, trade unions joined the local school children and representatives of private organisations in general festivities; and in Zarqa, processions, public rallies and other activities were organised.

Deputy Abdul Baqi Jammo addressed a rally in Zarqa saying

that the "massive display of joy proved to the world that Jordanians maintain a strong national unity, and work behind their leader towards the fulfilment of national aspirations."

In Koura in northern Jordan and Tafleeh and Aqaba in the

south, various rallies were organised and streets were bedecked with decorative signs in expression of joy.

At the University of Jordan, students organised a huge rally, and national dances, dabkeh and songs were presented.

## Jordan qualified to lead regional efforts to promote human rights — AI head

AMMAN (J.T.) — The London-based human rights organisation, Amnesty International (AI), believes that Jordan is qualified to lead efforts designed to further enhance human rights principles because the country represents "a model in educational programmes on human rights in the Middle East," according to Mr. Ian Martin, AI secretary general.

Mr. Martin who was speaking at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, voiced Amnesty International's appreciation of the support Jordan gives to his organisation, particularly support from the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Hindawi was quoted by Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that Jordan was concerned with human rights issues and the

Ministry of Education is giving due attention to human rights in its school curricula.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed prospects for promoting and expanding teaching of human rights to school children in Jordan. "Jordan's general policies and those in education in particular are in line with the same principles and objectives advocated by Amnesty International, and this policy is manifested in Jordanian schools at large," Mr. Hindawi said.

Earlier, Mr. Martin paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein who, he said, leads a country that should serve as a good example for others in the field of human rights.

Addressing a meeting for groups affiliated to Amnesty International in Jordan, Mr. Martin

said that he was holding talks with Jordanian officials on a number of questions related to Amnesty International operations in Jordan and the region.

Mr. Martin said that in 1990, the organisation set up offices in Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, he said AI operates in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Amnesty International is an impartial, human rights organisation that does not support or oppose any government or political system, nor does it support or oppose the views of prisoners whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the protection of human rights involved in each case, regardless of the ideology of the government or the beliefs of the victim.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

## King congratulates Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh congratulating him on the 30th anniversary of the Sept. 26 Yemeni revolution. King Hussein wished Mr. Saleh continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity. On the occasion, Yemeni ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Abu Lahboun commended Jordanian-Yemeni relations, saying these relations were established on solid ground by King Hussein and Mr. Saleh. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Abu Lahboun said bilateral relations between the two countries were witnessing continued progress, which will be reflected positively on the Jordanian and Yemeni peoples. The Yemeni ambassador praised the Sept. 26 revolution, describing it as a turning point in Yemen's history. He said the revolution led the Yemeni people to progress and prosperity.

## Arabiyat meets AI secretary general

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Saturday met with Secretary General of Amnesty International Ian Martin and an accompanying delegation. At the meeting, Dr. Arabiyat praised Amnesty International's activities in finding facts and fighting for human rights. He stressed the need to give citizens their freedoms.

## British delegation visits army HQ

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb received Saturday at the Army General Headquarters a delegation representing the British Royal College for Defence Studies, headed by the commander of the college. The meeting reviewed the situation in the Middle East and scopes of bilateral cooperation.

## King Hussein, Prince Mohammad bridges to close Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department said only 200 people will be allowed to cross the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges into the West Bank Sunday, saying the two bridges over the Jordan River will be closed at 9 a.m. The department said the bridges will be closed completely for traffic on Monday and Tuesday. It said traffic will be back to normal on the two bridges as of Wednesday morning.

## Customs on steel rods reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet decided to reduce customs duty on steel rods used in reinforced cement as of Saturday. Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal said the customs duty value was reduced from 10 per cent to one per cent so as to keep a sufficient supply for citizens in the local market at reasonable prices.

## Gathering to discuss children's rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the first Jordanian children's dialogue on the children's rights convention will be opened at the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday. A total of 150 children aged between 12-16 years are taking part in the four-day gathering, which is organised by human rights groups in Jordan. Representatives of these groups will hold a press conference Sunday morning at Hotel Jordan International to outline the goals and objectives of the gathering.

## Jordan receives \$10 m loan from China

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and China Saturday signed an agreement that includes a \$10-million interest-free loan to help finance educational and other projects in the Kingdom.

The agreement was signed by visiting Deputy Chinese Minister of Communications Wang Chan Yi and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour in the presence of China's Ambassador in Amman and several senior Ministry of Industry officials.

Before the signing ceremony, the two sides held a round of talks in which they reviewed Jordanian-Chinese cooperation in a number of fields.

China recently granted Jordan nearly \$10 million loan to build the Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Another Chinese loan is financing the purchase of consumer goods for the Civil Service Consumer Corporation's markets and the construction of a national library.

The visiting Chinese official earlier Saturday met with Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat to review

Jordanian-Chinese cooperation in a number of fields.

Mr. Yi expressed his delight over "witnessing many achievements in Jordan" and said his country was deeply satisfied with the level of political and economic cooperation with the Kingdom.

He said he will have talks with the Jordanian government on future cooperation in economic fields and on increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Mr. Subeimat expressed Jordan's appreciation for China for its continued help to Jordan saying that the country seeks to further improve bilateral ties.

Mr. Subeimat expressed hope that an air transport agreement to be signed here by the Civil Aviation Authorities in China and Jordan would further bolster bilateral ties.

He said Amman and Beijing were holding contacts through the private sectors in both countries to carry out joint economic ventures and bolster bilateral trade.

## Meeting reviews results of Al Mashreq Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty-five researchers and scientists from Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday to review the results of the "Mashreq project for Agricultural Development" carried out by The International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Dr. Mahmoud Dweiri, director of the Jordanian National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer, addressed the opening session reaffirming Jordan's keenness to increase cooperation with ICARDA to Arab and neighbouring nations to increase food production.

ICARDA delegate Nasrat Fiddah reviewed the organisation's plans and programmes in the region, referring to the Mashreq Project.

Delegates taking part in the Mashreq Project's fourth meeting came from Syria, Iraq, Cyprus, Turkey and Jordan as well as ICARDA.

ICARDA is administering the project and providing the needed technological data. The project is financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development. The ICARDA statement said that the project, now in its third year, will last for five years.

The statement said that the delegates will also discuss and develop a workplan that will be implemented during the 1992-93 season in the three countries where the Mashreq Project is currently being implemented: Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

The project aims at improving barley, forage and sheep production in the rainfall zones of the three countries, the statement said.

The project and providing the needed technological data. The project is financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development. The ICARDA statement said that the project, now in its third year, will last for five years.

## France to explore joint ventures with private sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce Michel Habib-Delencle arrived in Amman Saturday and said that the chamber was "seriously considering the idea of launching joint economic ventures with Jordan in a bid to further bolster bilateral trade and economic cooperation."

Mr. Delencle, who met with the President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Mohammad Asfour and chamber members, said that France was showing increased interest in Jordan's economic difficulties which emerged as a result of the Gulf crisis.

"Jordan was one of the countries most affected by the Gulf crisis which prompted the French government to extend a helping hand to the Kingdom, helping it to overcome the difficult circumstances," Mr. Delencle said.

He said France launched a campaign to enlist the world community's help to Jordan to help it find a way to deal with its economic difficulties.

The Arab-French Chamber of Commerce, which was founded in 1970 upon an initiative by Arab ambassadors in Paris, conducts promotion campaigns to market French and Arab goods and encourages trade exchanges between France and the Arab World.

Mr. Asfour voiced Jordan's appreciation for France's continued assistance to Jordan's economy and for its continued drive to promote trade exchanges.

The Jordanian private sector, he said, is interested in launching joint economic projects with French businessmen, hoping that the French side would share in the joint capital and offer expertise and modern technology.

## Jordan, Egypt discuss maritime transport

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt have held talks in the Egyptian city of Alexandria to review port operations on both sides, according to Dr. Mahasneh. He said the two sides agreed on retaining the same charges for transporting passengers and their cars either way.

Dr. Mahasneh said that Jordan has requested that an Egyptian firm conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a passenger station at the port of Aqaba.

He said the two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings between officials from the two sides at Nweibeh and Aqaba to promote cooperation in maritime transport operations.

## ESCWA to mark end of decade for the disabled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organising cultural activities to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

The "Cultural Event for Disabled Persons in ESCWA Region" will be organised between Oct. 17-18 in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Human Affairs, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Executive Council of the General Union for Voluntary Societies, the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped and the Ministry of Social Development.

The event, which will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), will "provide a place for disabled persons to demonstrate their capabilities and creativity," an ESCWA press release said Saturday.

The activities will also provide a forum for disabled people as well as regional and international experts to discuss and exchange information on issues related to disability and evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action in the ESCWA Region. The event will also aim to develop a regional long-term strategy for dealing with issues of concern to the disabled, according to the press release.

The general objective of the event is to promote public awareness of the capabilities of disabled persons and their needs for integration into all aspects of life," said the release.

It said participants at the activities will hope to strengthen coordination among non-governmental organisations dealing with the disabled and review legislation on their rights.

The Ministry of Social Development Saturday issued a statement saying that it currently runs 15 centres and schools for the benefit of disabled and handicapped persons, offering them special education and training skills.

In addition, the ministry said it operates 22 classes for children with hearing problems and mental disabilities in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Disabled people between the ages of 14 to 40 are accepted at these centres, said the ministry statement.

The ministry also operates two special vocational centres for the handicapped persons, accommodating 160 males and 78 females "to allow them the opportunity to become useful citizens in their community," the statement said.

The ministry is also planning to develop and expand the Al Noor Rehabilitation Centre in Amman which offers training and services to 135 handicapped children.

## Tough UAE-Iran talks expected today

(Continued from page 1)

Arab World but it has supported the UAE in the dispute. The Syrian foreign minister went to Tehran and urged that the row be settled through dialogue.

Kuwait has expressed support for UAE in its row with Iran and said it hoped Tehran would abide by international conventions for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

"We have been following with grave concern the recent developments, with all their ramifications, in regard to Abu Musa island," Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, said in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

The Kuwaiti minister said recent developments would have a "direct impact on regional peace and stability."

"Hence, we are all duty-bound to work towards averting their repercussions in order to preserve the good neighbourly relations we already have with the friendly Islamic Republic of Iran," he continued.

He made it clear that Sunday's talks would remove "the minor problems," the agency added.

Damascus has long been Tehran's closest friend in the

group.

And even Iran's traditional ally, Syria, has taken a stand against Tehran, while the UAE has rallied Arab League support.

On Saturday, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan left Damascus after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the territorial dispute. Details of their closed door meeting were not disclosed.

IRNA quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying in New York, where he is attending the U.N. General Assembly session, that he had told Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa that Tehran's policy over the issue of Abu Musa remained unchanged.

## Russian sub 'on its way to Iran'

(Continued from page 1)

the whole region.

On Friday, a senior Russian official, Leonid Pakhomov, was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency from Moscow as saying that the controversial sale would not go forward for now because of a dispute over trade payments.

"The question of selling Russian diesel submarines to Tehran is not on the agenda now because of certain difficulties between Russia and Iran over payments for arms, technology and special equipment," said Mr. Pakhomov, deputy head of the Foreign Trade Ministry department responsible for arms.

## Iraq agrees to relief plan for Kurds

(Continued from page 1)

Two sources are being discussed: Iraqi bank accounts abroad — which would consist mainly of proceeds from oil sales — and money owed Iraq for oil delivered before the United Nations banned oil trade with Baghdad after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It would be the first time the United Nations has seized a country's assets.

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee predicted roughly \$300 million would be

seized. Another Western diplomat pegged it at up to \$1 billion.

Mr. Saleh, Iraq's trade minister, condemned U.S. efforts to push the resolution through the United Nations, and said the money must be released to buy desperately needed food and medicine.

"After its military aggression, the United States is using this to destroy human lives in Iraq," Mr. Saleh said at a news conference in Baghdad. "It is a crime that will add tremendously to human suffering and childhood mortality."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- Exhibitions**
- ★ Exhibition entitled "A Dialogue in Expression" — works on paper by Naz Ikramullah, Nabila Hinnal and Dodi Taban at the National Gallery, Jabel Lawwidiyah Park.
  - ★ Exhibition entitled "The Horizon" by Artist Qasim Al Samir and Najah Al Rahi at the Housing Bank Gallery.
  - ★ Art exhibition by Turkish artist Sabahat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
  - ★ Exhibition of sculpture and enamel on copper by Mostafa Ali and Shereen Malla at Baladna Art Gallery.
  - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammed Polias, Munira Al Tunisia and Mohammed Maltas at Phoenix Gallery.



By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# What impact the adjustment programme?

What was the impact of the economic structural adjustment programmes prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reform the national economies of developing countries that reached the point of crisis and failed to meet their contractual obligations due to heavy indebtedness?

There is no one agreed answer to this question. There are countries which applied the programme and achieved good results, while other countries tried, or pretended to try the application of the programme but failed to get anywhere. The degree of success varies considerably from one country to another.

It is legitimate therefore for some analysts to argue that the good results achieved by the Jordanian economy in every respect during the past 12 months were made possible only through the strict adherence to the adjustment programme. However, it is equally legitimate for other analysts to cast doubt over this outcome, and claim that the Jordanian economy would have achieved all these results or even more anyway, without the programme.

International comparative studies established that countries applying the adjustment programme usually met success in the area of balance of payments, reduction of deficit in the current account and narrowing the deficit in the budget. The results concerning economic growth and reduction of inflation were less

than certain, as the results were mixed.

In the particular case of the Jordanian economy we find impressive results in almost all areas, especially the balance of payment and current account, the central government's budget, the stepping up of exports, the suppression of inflation, the relatively good growth in the gross domestic product, and the momentum of new investments which resulted in a reduction in the rate of unemployment.

As my readers know, I am one of the strong supporters of the economic adjustment programme, in the open. Yet, I do not claim that all the above accomplishments of the Jordanian economy could be solely attributed to the application of the programme. There is no doubt in my mind that the programme improved the situation and enhanced public confidence, a prerequisite for long term investments, but there are other factors that helped the Jordanian economy, at least in the short run. Prominent among these favourable factors are our expatriates who were expelled from Kuwait and brought home with them all their experience, knowhow, dynamism and part of their savings in foreign exchange. The generous foreign aid in the form of grants from Germany and soft loans from Japan could not be ignored, as cannot be forgotten the Iraqi crude oil supplied to Jordan at concessional prices and without any cash payment. Thus the

construction boom now in progress led the economy to prosperity and growth.

If the critics of the economic adjustment programme were not convinced that the programme played a constructive role in achieving all these results, which exceeded the wildest expectations, then at least they should admit that the adoption of the programme did not hinder the excellent performance, growth and creation of jobs. It did not starve the people, spread poverty or increase the burden on the people beyond their capacity to take.

We can, and perhaps should, differ on the programme, or parts of its policies and measures, or lack of them. However, we can hardly differ on the obvious fact that the Jordanian economy is currently running in the right path and direction or, for that matter, on the fact that the performance is much better than the optimists predicted, and that this success took place under the full application of the programme.

If the critics of the programme deny the programme any credit for the accomplishments, at least they should admit that it helped Jordan face the external indebtedness crisis and enhanced the flow of foreign aid without hurting the prospects for economic growth, causing inflation or preventing the alleviation of the suffering of the poor by means other than direct subsidies across the board.

## Space for expansion

WASHINGTON APPEARS to rule out for the time being any expansion in the membership of the U.N. Security Council on the pretext that the process of expansion is a complicated one that needs more time. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said so in so many words Friday on the fringes of the ongoing session of the U.N. General Assembly. "Security Council reform," Eagleburger explained, "is something the United States must certainly be prepared to consider, but the fact of the matter is when you try to analyse how you do it, what changes would (have to) be made, it gets to be very very complicated."

This statement amplifies the U.S.' posture on the repeated calls for democratisation of the Security Council and other principal organs of the U.N. system. In this sense at least, it is a big disappointment not only for Japan and Germany which have openly joined the chorus of nations calling for reforming the council's membership, but for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as well. Indonesian President Suharto specifically raised the point about the pressing need for reforming the U.N. when, in a speech Thursday to the General Assembly on behalf of the member states of NAM, he warned that the Third World can no longer tolerate being kept at a distance from the international policy decision-making process and insisted on more equitable representation in the main U.N. bodies such as the Security Council. Suharto even hinted that unrepresented nations of the world may consider accepting permanent membership in the council without enjoying veto powers on par with the major countries of the new world.

No one wishes to take issue with the U.S. submission that expanding the Security Council is a complicated process because it is. What causes concern among the reform seekers, however, is the U.S. proposition that because the changes called for are complicated they may be shelved indefinitely.

But the process need not be so complicated after all. Amending the U.N. Charter on the council membership merely requires consensus by the U.N. members. Such consensus is already there and all it needs is codifying through a formal act of the General Assembly. Only the U.S. seems to be openly opposed to U.N. reform. Possibly Paris, London and Peking would also view any changes as troublesome. If this is indeed the case their reasons would be obvious: They have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Surely no one would expect the current permanent members of the council to relinquish power or to share it with other nations. But the moment has arrived when the new realities in the world should be taken into account democratically in order to shape the future of the international organisation. It so happens that the existing composition of the Security Council in particular reflects an outdated power structure going back to the end of World War II. It has become an imbalance which must end. To do this, Washington and its silent partners must yield to the increasing calls for reformation within at least the main body of the U.N. dealing with international peace and security.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Saturday commented on the end of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, noting that they achieved nothing for the Arabs but helped Israel's propaganda campaign worldwide. The Israelis have succeeded in misleading the world by appearing that they are inclined towards peace and that they are still determined to pursue the talks with the Arabs to achieve that goal. The Arabs realise that nothing has been achieved and no progress was made in the talks, contrary to what the Israeli side has been claiming; they also realise that the Israelis have never been inclined to make peace with the Arabs on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the daily. On the other hand, the United States, which is supposed to be sponsoring successful talks in Washington, seems to be indifferent as to whether such talks achieve progress or not, the paper added. It is enough for the U.S. administration if the talks are continuing so that the Bush campaign for the presidency can get momentum, it pointed out. The seventh round of talks, due to start on Oct. 21, is not expected to bring about any progress either unless Washington moves fast to force Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 that can guarantee stability and security for the region, the paper said. Other than a clear commitment on the part of the U.S.-Israeli alliance to ensure the implementation of these resolutions, added the paper, all the talks and the discussions can only serve to fuel Israel's manoeuvres and acts of deception directed at the world community and the Arab Nation.

FROM NOW until Oct. 21, the date of the seventh round of Arab-Israeli talks, the Israelis are expected to be active to further improve their image, and there is no alternative for the Arab side but to take prompt action too, said Salah Al Qalab, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, Saturday. During the coming month, the Arab parties ought to take some steps not only to thwart Israel's aim of disrupting the unity of ranks among them, but also to confront any unfavourable ideas that the Rabin government might come up with in the coming round, said the writer. It is clear to all now that Israel is trying to attain a separate peace treaty with Syria over the Golan Heights and it is clear that the Israeli bid is winning the American blessings, said the writer. He said that Syria is demanding a full withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for full peace with Israel. On the whole, and whether Israel is going to respond favourably to the Syrian proposal or not, nothing should stop the Arabs from bolstering their united stand on all fronts and nothing should deter the Arabs from demanding a full Israeli withdrawal and a comprehensive peace, the writer said. The Arab parties, he said, should utilise the coming month for further strengthening their position, as they face a very decisive phase in the talks. The writer said that no time should be lost and all efforts must be exerted towards protecting pan-Arab interests.

## Does Bush have anything to gain in debates?

By Laurence McQuillan  
Renter

WASHINGTON — President Bush's reluctance to debate Bill Clinton on any terms but his own masks some serious doubts among Mr. Bush strategists as to whether the president should debate at all.

"I'm not going to let this new man set the terms," Mr. Bush said in a recent talk-show interview.

The Bush campaign has snubbed both proposals from a bipartisan presidential commission on debates, one calling for a first debate this past Tuesday in East Lansing, Mich., and a revised call for one next week in Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Clinton accepted both offers. But the Bush camp rejected the first — insisting that the forum and dates should be negotiated by the two campaigns, not set by third parties — and it is sticking to that position.

The original proposal called for three presidential debates run by a single moderator. Mr. Bush wants to keep the format that has prevailed throughout televised presidential debates, with a panel of journalists asking questions.

The Bush camp also wants two presidential debates at most — and with less than six weeks remaining until election day, time is growing tight for even that many. Incumbents usually avoid contests in the last week or so for fear there would be no time to recover from a major gaffe or a defeat.

"I'm not professional Oxford debater," Mr. Bush said in the talk-show interview, a snide reference to the fact that Mr. Clinton was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University.

"But I've debated, held my own reasonably well," said Mr. Bush, who never mentions in these claims of humble disadvantage that he himself is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale and an alumnus of an elite New England prep school.

"I don't think I'm a great professional at it, but I want a debate."

His professed desire to stand up to his Democratic challenger, however, masks a serious internal debate among his closest advisers, some of whom believe any televised debate with Mr. Clinton will only harm the incumbent.

Mr. Bush strategists believe their man, trailing the Arkansas governor by double digits in most public opinion polls, still holds an edge in what they call "the stature gap."

"Once Bush and Clinton get on the same stage, they become equals," said one administration official who spoke on condition he not be identified. "If we give up something, we need to be able to get something back."

One campaign official said the debate manoeuvres directed by White House Chief of Staff James Baker have bought time for the White House to decide whether they should be held at all.

"If we can turn this (campaign) around, (debates) would serve no purpose," this official said — although he acknowledged there has been no turn-around so far.

The latest ABC-Washington Post poll showed Mr. Clinton widening his lead over Mr. Bush to 58-to-37 per cent.

Several key strategists, however, believe that even with Mr. Bush trailing there is little for him to gain from a debate, unless Mr. Clinton was to make a major gaffe in the high-pressure, televised encounter sure to be watched by tens of millions.

"Once Bush and Clinton get on the same stage, they become equals. If we give up something, we need to be able to get something back."

But the governor has thus far come across as a smooth public performer, and a major debate gaffe on his part is something even Republican loyalists consider unlikely.

Which leaves the Bush camp back to square one.

"There are some who argue that we have nothing to gain and everything to lose," said one official. "So why do it?"

When John Kennedy debated Richard Nixon in the first televised debate in 1960, those exchanges clearly elevated the lesser-known Kennedy's stature, erased Mr. Nixon's mystique of experienced superiority and helped Mr. Kennedy win the election.

In 1980, Americans were disenchanted with President Jimmy Carter's four years in the White House, a time marked by high inflation and economic woes. At the same time, they harboured doubts about challenger Ronald Reagan.

According to polls taken during that campaign, many voters shifted to Mr. Reagan after the lone campaign debate, in which Mr. Reagan not only held his own but got the advantage over Mr. Carter with such shots as his famous summary question to the voters: "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

That debate occurred just one week before election day. The

Reagan campaign's debate negotiator was none other than James Baker.

In 1984 and 1988, with Mr. Baker also negotiating, Republicans Reagan and Bush made sure they got two debates, but no more, and with a time cushion before election day just in case.

What all of that illustrates is that masters of debate politics, like Mr. Baker, tailor their strategy carefully to suit the political needs of their candidate and the situation.

This year, the Bush strategy

## Nothing seems to work for embattled president

By Terence Hunt  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush has brought back his old political team. He's tried new lines of attack. But nothing seems to work. He seems stuck in a rut, unable to stir fears about Bill Clinton or create optimism about four more years of Republican rule.

One month after the Republican convention that was supposed

did for George Bush.

While Mr. Clinton has scored points by hammering Mr. Bush on the sad state of the economy, the president has not gotten much payback from his attacks on Mr. Clinton's avoidance of the draft during the Vietnam war.

In fact, Mr. Bush can't seem to decide how hard to press the so-called character issue. Some days he says that Mr. Clinton hasn't told the truth about the draft while other days he says that

point where he really doesn't care" about winning.

In the month since James Baker took over as chief of staff, there have been some marked improvements in Mr. Bush's campaign.

Mr. Bush has sharpened the debate on differences with Mr. Clinton, particularly on taxes, and has begun to focus on Arkansas' bottom-dwelling ranking in many economic areas.

The president has finally addressed the "vision" question, defining a rationale for a second term based on an agenda of free enterprise, lower taxes and less government.

The indecision that plagued Mr. Bush's campaign has been replaced with a clear line of authority emanating from Mr. Baker. Campaign money is being spent more wisely, officials say. Mr. Bush has doled out favours, promises and tax breaks to farmers, defence employees, displaced workers, businessmen and average taxpayers — although he's been fuzzy about how to pay for everything.

But the miracle that Republicans hoped for hasn't materialised.

"We've stabilised and laid the groundwork for a possible breakthrough," one senior White House official said. But the official added, "it's not clear that we'll be able to make the breakthrough. We need to change the dynamic or the psychology of this campaign in the next couple of weeks."

Republican strategist Eddie Malo said that while the campaign and White House are operating better, "it hasn't had any impact yet."

"I'm not sure I can recall when an incumbent was reelected if ever — in a deteriorating economy and that's what they're trying to do. If they were running against anybody but Clinton I don't think they'd have a shot."

Mr. Bush's campaign press secretary Torie Clarke said the polls "ranged from 15 to 30 points (in Mr. Clinton's favour) at the convention. Now they're five to 15 points. ... Those are very good numbers for us right now."

There has been some discussion of a pre-election announcement of personnel changes for a second term, a step aimed at showing that a Bush administration would have new ideas and fresh energy.

Officials most likely to be replaced are Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and budget Director Richard Darman, who have failed to produce a successful strategy for reviving the economy, and Veterans Secretary Edward Derwinski, whose low standing among veterans groups helped cost Mr. Bush the endorsement of the 2.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Campaigning officially ended at midnight on Thursday with a televised debate between the six presidential candidates in which Mr. Ilescu defended his communist career and claimed to have opposed Ceausescu's extremist policies.

Some 16 million Romanians are entitled to vote on Sunday, at 14,611 polling stations. More than 7,500 observers including 350 from abroad will monitor the ballot to check whether it is free and fair.

Computerised projections of the results will be issued when voting ends at nine p.m. (1800 GMT). Final presidential election results are to be announced by October 3 and final results for parliament will be made public by October 6.

## Romanian poll a chance to ditch or keep communists

By Peter Humphrey  
Renter

BUCHAREST — Romanians vote in a general election today giving them a chance to ditch or retain communist leaders who survived the convulsions of the December 1989 revolution.

In two months of campaigning one issue has towered above all others in the twin battle for Romania's presidency and parliament — will Romanians keep President Ion Ilescu, a veteran communist, or will they throw him out of office?

Mr. Ilescu has become such a powerful symbol of the remnants of the communist system that the United States Congress decided on Thursday to postpone a vote on trade privileges for Romania until after the elections.

"The parties involved in the election form two blocs — for Ion

Ilescu and against Ion Ilescu," said political analyst Ion Cristoiu, chief editor of Romania's top newspaper Evenimentul Zilei.

"Ilescu's shadow looms over the whole election campaign."

Pro-Ilescu parties are mainly socialist or nationalist. Romania's 23 million people lurched awkwardly into multi-party democracy and the free market almost three years ago in the bloody uprising in which Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was deposed and shot dead by firing squad.

But Mr. Ilescu and other once-prominent communists took control of the presidency and the new parliament, they deeply penetrated the new ruling party, the National Salvation Front (NSF), and they remained entrenched in the bureaucracy.

In June 1990, Mr. Ilescu used

some 20,000 coalminers for a crackdown against anti-government demonstrators in Bucharest, leaving six dead.

The ensuing doubts about his democratic pedigree became a millstone on Romania's neck making it hard to borrow abroad.

The weekend elections might be the last chance for the next four years — the mandate period for the presidency and the bicameral parliament — to change the situation.

Two years ago Mr. Ilescu and the NSF were elected with landslide majorities in the euphoric atmosphere after the revolution in which they had emerged as erstwhile heroes.

Today the seismic plates of Romanian politics have shifted dramatically. The NSF broke in two last March with ex-Premier Petre Roman heading a reformist

NSF Party and pro-Ilescu communists defecting from the front to form their own conservative Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) Party.

The opposition landscape has also changed drastically.

What was once a disparate mass of many tiny parties has managed to turn itself into a credible alliance.

The new force, the centrist Democratic Convention (DC), was tipped in the latest opinion poll, before campaigning, ended on Thursday, to win the largest block of seats in parliament with 44 per cent of the votes.

The convention's presidential candidate, Bucharest University Rector Emil Constantinescu, was predicted to win the presidential ballot with 48 per cent against 26 per cent for Mr. Ilescu, but in that case a second round run-off

would be necessary because of a mandatory 50 per cent required for absolute victory.

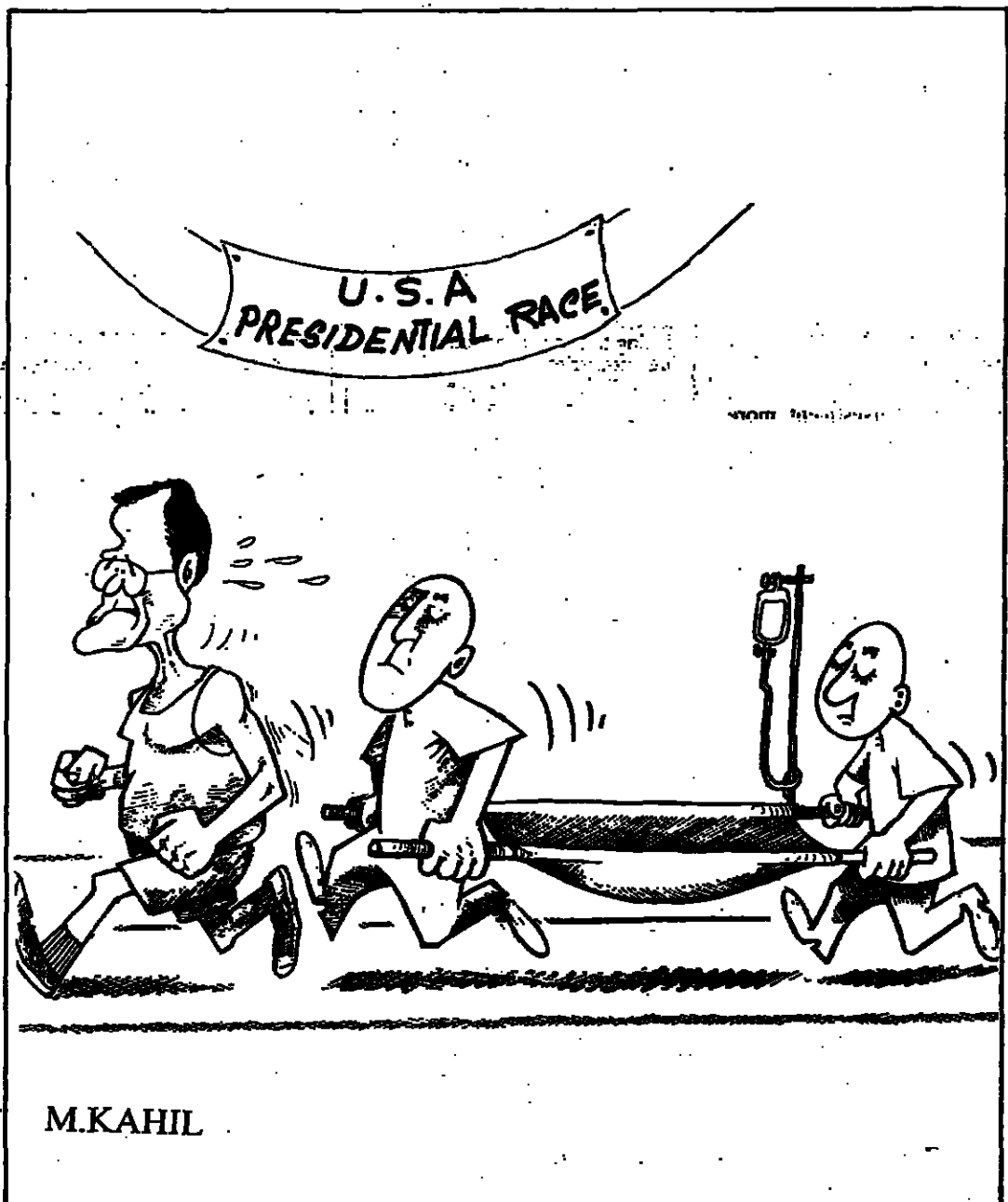
This would be a major advance from March when the DC won about a third of the nation's votes in local government polls.

But a number of other forecasts have put Mr. Ilescu ahead.

"The formation of a coalition government seems more complicated now," retired politician Silviu Brucan said in an interview printed in the newspaper Libertatea this week.

Noting the growing share of votes expected for the DNSF, Mr. Brucan said it would be difficult to form a homogeneous government by any combination of parties in the new parliament.

"One may anticipate a power-sharing formula with Ilescu as president and a coalition government with a Democratic Conven-





# World Tourism Day — occasion to reflect on industry's effect on our economic, cultural lives

**'Tourism — a factor of growing social and economic solidarity and of encounter between peoples'**

By Laurence Hlass

JORDAN JOINS the rest of the world today in celebrating World Tourism Day. And although the date for the celebration of this occasion is fixed, falling as it does each year on September 27, the motto under which the celebrations take place changes from year to year.

Last year, 1991, for example, World Tourism Day was marked by countries around the world under the theme "Communication, Information and Education — Powerlines of Tourism Development." That was an impressive and meaningful topic indeed, for it has been established

without any doubt that media coverage of issues relating to education and information on tourism, embraces the broad and global concerns of countries for the preservation of their cultural heritage, the environment and the involvement of human resources.

Ground rules, therefore, for the establishment of the relationships between the media — powerlines of communication — and the societies they cover, should register a significant contribution to the process of tourism development and nation-building.

This year, World Tourism Day carries a new and dynamic mes-

sage: "Tourism a Factor of Growing Social and Economic Solidarity and of Encounter Between Peoples."

Indeed travel fosters awareness of the smallness of our planet, heightens consciousness of earth's finite resources and creates a feeling of solidarity among peoples of the world.

Tourism also is a product of people's natural curiosity, their desire for recreation, their interest to see how others think and live. It is rooted deep in the human spirit as a universal aspiration, and is a catalyst of dialogue, understanding and solidarity.

Thus, awareness of the true and human dimension of tourism,

the direct and positive effects on the social, economic and cultural aspects of people's lives; the recognition of its role as an appropriate instrument for improving the quality of their lives, bringing them closer together and consequently strengthening international understanding, solidarity and cooperation should be emphasised.

To draw close home this message of fostering awareness through the exposure of our tourist resources, I wish to draw the attention of our readers to the recent Cultural Project — "Short Stories from Petra" — a joint venture sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Amman. This project brought to Petra six leading writers from the Arab World (Jordan included) and six most noted literary figures from France in an effort to expose Petra to the rest of the world.

It is to be hoped that as a result of this outstanding initiative tourists will be eager to come to Jordan and to Petra and to encounter in the fullest sense of the word with us, the Jordanians, showing respect to our history, culture, customs and way of life while contributing also to our prosperity.

On the international level, World Tourism Day is celebrated this year in a special way in the Spanish city of Seville within the framework of the Universal Exposition 1992. Since this year marks the five hundredth anniversary of the encounter between Europe and the Americas, a programme of events is being organised by the World Tourism Organisation at the site of "Expo" to mark the occasion.

On the local scene, here in Jordan, a number of activities, aimed at conveying the positive image of tourism and its importance in furthering the develop-

ment of the nation, are also conducted in schools, colleges, universities and through the tourism enterprises all over Jordan. The media has also made a substantive contribution in this direction.

Needless to note, however, that World Tourism Day need not be merely a symbolic date in which we organise events to enhance the image of our national tourism industry, promoting it as a tourist destination. It should also be an occasion for reflection on

the economic and cultural effect of tourism in today's world, an occasion to ponder and evaluate activities and services, as well as solve problems encountered in this sector of our economy.

And finally, this day should afford an occasion to stress the principles of human brotherhood and international solidarity which form the bedrock of travel and tourism in an effort to drive away the threatening clouds impending over our fast and shrinking world.

Above all, we have to spread a message of hope and confidence to all mankind: Hope in furthering peace, reactivating economy and promoting encounter among peoples, thus strengthening the moral and social growth of our societies.

The writer is a former Jordanian ambassador, adviser to the minister tourism and antiquities. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

## Tourism and the environment

The interest of tourism in the environment can be expressed in three propositions:

- 1) Travel promotes environmental awareness;
- 2) Well-organized tourism is a good friend of the environment; and
- 3) A successful tourism industry needs a high quality environment.

The reader may wish to be aware of the environmental impacts and the key benefits of travel and tourism for the environment.

### Summary of impacts:

- Changing land-use patterns and consequent changes in ecological systems, i.e. loss of open space, wild life habitats, flora/fauna.
- Emissions, litter, sewage, hazardous and other waste products.
- Pressure on heritage and other cultural and natural resources from visitor numbers.
- Uniformity of structures and buildings and lack of respect for architectural harmony and local materials.
- Competitive pressure from travel and tourism businesses for scarce local resources and infrastructure such as transport facilities, water and other utilities.
- Undermining of cultural practices and traditions.

— Marine, terrain and climate change induced in some areas by tourist usage e.g. beach or ski resorts.

The key potential benefits of travel and tourism can be summarised as follows:

- Protection and active conservation of natural and built heritage resources justified by their own intrinsic value for posterity and the revenue which visitors contribute.
- Creation of economic value and protection for resources which otherwise have no perceived value to residents or represent a cost rather than a benefit.
- Opportunity to communicate and interpret the values of natural and built heritage and of cultural inheritance to residents of visited areas.
- Enhancement of the natural and built environment to meet rising quality standards necessary to sustain modern travel and tourism.
- Establishment of attractive environments for tourism destinations — for residents as much as visitors, which may support other compatible new economic activity — from agriculture and fishing to service and manufacturing industries.
- Effective management of visitors within an environment so that it can support long term economic development and respect visits.
- Opportunities, through the direct customer contacts which all travel and tourism businesses have, for operators to communicate and interpret the values of natural and built heritage and culture to visitors — thus helping to create a new generation of responsible consumers.

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World Travel & Tourism Council

## Judge rejects request against suit against tear-gas makers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A federal judge declined Friday to dismiss a lawsuit against a tear-gas maker by the survivors of nine Palestinians killed in the occupied territories.

U.S. District Court Judge William Standish said the U.S. State Department's policy of allowing tear-gas sales to Israel did not negate the duty of Federal Laboratories Inc. of Saltburg to ensure its product was used safely.

He also rejected the company's argument that liability law does not apply to a dangerous product such as tear-gas, which is classified as ammunition.

"Just because the sale was to the military, that does not shield the company," Mr. Standish told company attorney Carolyn Brant Hoover.

The lawsuit, filed Dec. 19 in Pittsburgh, contends Federal Laboratories and its parent company, Transcendental Corporation of California, are liable for the deaths of four men and five women who died from January 1990 to May 1991 after being gassed by Israeli security forces.

Each of the more than 60 plaintiffs is seeking more than \$30,000 in damages.

The suit says the company was negligent in dealing with Israel because executives knew the Israeli military's misuse of tear-gas had caused civilian deaths.

The lawsuit also says the product was defective because it caused not only discomfort but death, and that the company failed to warn Israel about the defect.

After the judge's ruling, Ghazi Essawi, 52, told reporters his 68-year-old mother, Fatima, was watching television in her Jerusalem home when tear-gas made by Federal Laboratories hit outside her open window. She died after inhaling the gas, he said.

"I hope the American sense of justice will make sure that my mother did not die in vain," Mr. Essawi said.

In arguing for dismissal of the case, Ms. Brant Hoover said the federal government, not the company, was responsible for deciding whether Israel could buy U.S.-made tear-gas.

"That question has already been answered by the State Department," Ms. Brant Hoover said.

Mr. Standish said the government may not have known if Israeli soldiers were misusing the gas.

"We don't know what findings were made by the state department or when they made their findings," the judge said.

An attorney for the Palestinians, Jules Lobel, argued that if the case involved American deaths, the lawsuit would proceed.

"I do not believe that the fact that the victims were Palestinians, not Pittsburghers, should lead to a different result," Mr. Lobel said, and the judge agreed.

Mr. Lobel said suing the maker was the only way for victims' families to seek justice because laws make the United States and Israel immune from such suits.

Mr. Standish set a pretrial hearing for Oct. 16.

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## Tunisia forecasts higher growth, trade deficit

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian economy is expected to grow 8.4 per cent in 1992 but the trade deficit will rise to about 1.35 billion dinars (\$1.6 billion), Planning Minister Mustapha Nabli told reporters.

He said growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) reflected a good harvest for farmers and a rebound in tourism after 1991's Gulf war setback. GDP is likely to grow less than three per cent in 1993, he said.

"The Tunisian economy has recovered its dynamism but there are negative aspects represented by an aggravation of the trade deficit," Mr. Nabli said.

Mr. Nabli said the trade deficit resulted from liberalisation of imports, 118-million dinars (\$138 million) spent on a gas pipeline to Italy, and poor sales of olive oil.

## French consumers tighten belts

PARIS (AP) — Unsettled by a sluggish economy and high unemployment, French consumers have tightened their belts — pinching pennies in supermarkets, department stores and trendy boutiques.

"The French face lots of uncertainty, and have adopted crisis behaviour," said Dominique Georgeton, a marketing analyst at Les Printemps department store. "People are reluctant to spend money."

Consumer goods — including home furnishings, appliances and clothing — have been hit hard. Even the food sector, once a bastion of uninterrupted growth, shows signs of decline.

"The average customer is putting less in his basket than he did last year," said Thierry Pequerel, manager of a Franprix supermarket in Paris.

"People are eating less high-priced food and going back to the basics. However, volume of our own brand items, like coffee, dairy products and canned goods, is way up," he said. "This is new."

A consumer analyst, Philippe Mosti, said the French are looking for ways to extend the life of things they already own. They're also putting off expensive purchases and choosing lower price merchandise when they do buy.

"This trend is particularly visible in the H-FI sector," he said. The luxury industry also is feeling the pinch. A saleswoman at the Chanel watch boutique said business slumped during the Gulf war and has never recovered.

Car manufacturers complain about a new trend away from powerful luxury models towards smaller, less expensive models.

"Tastes have changed," said Daniel Leconte, head of marketing at Renault. "However, we do know that the customer who wants the expensive car, and who has financial difficulties, will postpone his purchase rather than choose a cheaper model."

The fashion-conscious French are economising with clothes purchases.

According to the Textile Group of Economic Observation, the number of purchases made in the first half of 1992 was virtually unchanged from 1991.

"The stores are bringing with them merchandise, but budgets are tight," said Gerard Roudine of the French Ready-to-Wear Federation. "There's a trend towards buying things for investment, to last."

Some manufacturers have sought to lure customers by cut-

## Omani growth slows

MUSCAT (AP) — The economic development of oil producing Oman marginally slowed down last year as its gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices fell by 0.9 per cent, according to a report published by the Sultanate's central bank. The growth rate for 1990 was 26.4 per cent.

The GDP went down to 4,054.6 million riyals (\$10,450 million) in 1991 from 4,084 million riyals (\$10,536 million) in 1990. The report attributed the decline in 1991 largely to weak oil prices in 1991. "The government financial position was adversely affected during 1991 due to the fall in oil prices in the international markets following a relatively good year in 1990," the report said. The Sultanate's production is in the range of 700,000 barrels per day and economic activity is generally influenced directly and indirectly by the petroleum sector whose share in the GDP varies between 40 and 50 per cent. The central bank report said that the non petroleum sectors continued to grow in 1991.

## U.S. business failures increase

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. business failures increased in double digits in July and over the first seven months of the year, compared with 1991, Dun and Bradstreet has reported.

"Business failures remain at very high levels, underscoring the breadth of the recession," Joseph Duncan, vice president and corporate economist for the business research firm, said in a statement. "The recession has weakened so many firms that many can no longer survive at the current slow pace of economic growth."

Mr. Duncan said the rate of failure "is likely to continue through the end of 1992."

"Indeed, many of the firms that are now failing were creditors of businesses that failed," Mr. Duncan said.

But Dina Silva-Decker, a spokeswoman for Dun and Bradstreet, said its moving 13-week average, not included in the survey, showed a slowing in failures. If that trend continues, she said, business failure figures in 1992 might equal but not exceed the 87,266 failures of 1991.

"Whether that pace continues, I'm not certain," she said.

According to the survey, business failures increased 11.6 per cent in July 1992 over July 1991, to 8,580 from 7,688. For the first seven months of the year, business failures rose 16 per cent to 59,188 from 51,012 in the same period in 1991.

Failures were up for the seven months in every industry except mining, which fell 4.6 per cent. The greatest increases were reported in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, up 32 per cent to 1,799. Failures also were up in the services sector by 24.4 per cent to 16,274.

Failures for July were up in every industry sector except for the finance, insurance and real estate sector, which declined by 10.1 per cent.

"While a decline in bankruptcies is good news, the finance, insurance and real estate sector still has a long way to go," Mr. Duncan said.

"Failures in this sector have been rising since 1988. In fact, year-to-date failures are up more than 13 per cent."

Some of the smaller increases for July included mining, up 6.3 per cent to 34; transportation and public utilities, up 4.8 per cent to 369 and manufacturing, up 3.5 per cent to 595.

In another area, the government has reported that the number of new claims for jobless benefits rose in mid-September for the fourth straight week and topped 400,000 for the first time since early August.

"The recent initial unemployment claims data point to a major deterioration in the labour market," economists at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York said in a statement.

"The claims indicate to firms up of the labour markets, no new strength," concurred economist Robert Dederick of the Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "We did have a fundamental uptick in claims."

The Labour Department said first-time applications for unemployment insurance jumped by 15,000 to 414,000, in the week ended Sept. 12. Some of the new claims came from Hurricane Andrew's victims in Florida and Louisiana.

It was the first time that claims topped more than 400,000 since Aug. 8, when they stood at 474,000. New applications in the week ended Sept. 5 first were reported at 400,000, but were revised to 399,000 in the latest report.

Many analysts prefer to track a four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out the volatility of the weekly reports and is considered a more reliable indicator of the labour market's health.

This average posted its first increase in five weeks, rising to 398,250 during the period ended Sept. 12 from 390,500 for the period ending a week earlier.

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	NEW YORK CLOSE
	Date: 24/9	Date: 25/9
Sterling Pound	1.7060	1.7125
Deutsche Mark	1.4660	1.4835
Swiss Franc	1.3044	1.2975
French Franc	5.0455	5.0124
Japanese Yen	120.35	120.92
European Currency Unit	120.33***	1.3175

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.12	3.18	3.18
Sterling Pound	10.56	10.68	8.75	8.50
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.62	8.62	8.51
Swiss Franc	6.50	6.50	6.62	6.43
French Franc	11.00	10.00	9.62	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.34	4.00	3.87	3.75
European Currency Unit	13.00	12.00	10.37	10.25

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.65	6.75	Silver	3.82	.081

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.679	0.681
Sterling Pound	1.1596	1.1654
Deutsche Mark	0.4576	0.4599
Swiss Franc	0.5228	0.5254
French Franc	0.1353	0.1360
Japanese Yen	0.5608	0.5634
Dutch Guilder	0.4063	0.4083
Swedish Krona	0.1224	0.1230
Italian Lira	0.0547	0.0550
Belgian Franc	0.02224	0.02235

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7720	1.7840
Lebanese Lira	0.02565	0.02765
Saudi Riyal	0.1808	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1840	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7310	1.7430
UAE Dirham	0.1840	0.1850
Greek Drachma	0.3590	0.3790
Cypriot Pound	1.5200	1.5400

Index	16/9/92	Close	23/9/92	Close
All-Share	145.67		149.96	
Banking Sector	107.66		113.22	
Insurance Sector	151.75		153.65	
Industry Sector	195.82		198.06	
Services Sector	208.16		215.40	

## Energy forum calls on rich to share technology

MADRID (R) — The world's biggest energy think-tank Friday appealed to rich nations to help the transfer of technology to spur economic growth and preservation of the environment.

"We cannot afford to palm off developing countries with second best technologies," John Baker, vice-chairman of the World Energy Council's (WEC) 15th congress, told a news conference at the end of the five-day meeting.

The WEC estimates that half the world's population does not have access to commercial energy

alternatively their urgent and progressive replacement with alternative energy sources."

The WEC wants economic growth to be bound to environmental concerns in order to achieve sustained development.

"We have confirmed in this congress that environmental protection and economic development can be made to go hand in hand," Mr. Baker said in his conclusions.

The congress agreed that fossil fuels are likely to remain the primary source of energy in the coming decades. But it called for the phasing out of energy subsidies and the opening up of markets to help satisfy the growing demand for energy while putting the least strain on global resources.

The WEC cannot make decisions binding for the governments of its 91 member countries, but it recommended they implement a strategy of "minimum regret" — such as energy conservation and efficient use of resources — to deal with the greenhouse effect.

The West is already committed to cutting carbon dioxide emissions, which scientists believe trap heat in the atmosphere like a greenhouse and warm the globe.

Environmental groups protesting outside the congress venue were not impressed. "The priority should not be economic growth, but making sure energy meets the basic needs of everyone," said a spokesman for the Spanish ecology group Aedenat.

## Russian parliament clears privatisation scheme

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament gave the go ahead to the government's massive privatisation programme Friday after its volatile chairman, Russian Khasbulatov, blocked efforts by conservative deputies to derail it.

Mr. Khasbulatov refused to allow hardliners to put forward a draft resolution to postpone the Oct. 1 launch of the programme to give away thousands of state-owned companies.

He gave crucial last-minute support to the scheme to turn 150 million Russians into capitalists after a day of fierce conservative attacks on the "popular privatisation."

One deputy even threw a bunch of privatisation vouchers at a minister.

"We would be making a strategic mistake and acting shortsightedly if we were to give a firm 'no' to the privatisation programme," Mr. Khasbulatov told parliament.

It was the second time this week that Mr. Khasbulatov, normally one of the reformist government's most trenchant critics, had shielded it from the attacks of the conservative-dominated parliament.

He suggested an alternative resolution, which would give the "green light" to the planned distribution of privatisation vouchers from next Thursday and even urged the government to expand the initial number of enterprises to be given away.

"We should prepare another resolution, critical of the way the government manages the programme, but not the one that would block the process which has become effectively irreversible," Mr. Khasbulatov said.

Vouchers with a face value of 10,000 rubles (\$40) each are due to be distributed to every Russian man, woman and child between Oct. 1 and the end of the year.

The voucher can be traded for shares in part of Russia's huge and ineffective state sector.

Government officials say the vouchers are supposed to help create a big Russian middle class, which would be interested in supporting further market reforms.

They are also meant to ease public discontent with the existing emerging capitalist class in Russia, where private entrepreneurship was considered a crime during decades of communist rule.

"Any delay in handing out the vouchers to people would inevitably trigger popular outrage," Anatoly Chubais, head of the government's property committee handling the privatisation, told deputies.

Mr. Khasbulatov also argued that any interference by parliament in the programme would burden the legislature with responsibility for its possible failure.

"It would be silly for parliament to take on a responsibility belonging to the government," he said. "In this case we would have to answer for the failure as well."

Radical critics on the right and left used the debate to blast the

government market reform drive in general.

"Privatisation as it is planned by the government would mean a radical change in the social system," said Boris Tarasov of the hardline Fatherland Group.

"It would also lead to the impoverishment of the vast majority of the population. We demand a three-month moratorium... and a public referendum on the issue," he pointed out.

Mikhail Chelnokov, an ultra-leftist, said privatisation was a "dirty" government trick. "The voucher programme is a deception of the people. If we are people's representatives here we cannot support this programme."

Mr. Chelnokov pulled a packet of vouchers, apparently valueless sample copies, from his coat pocket and tossed them at privatisation chief Chubais, before returning to his seat.

Russian Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev, outlining a "survival plan" for key sector of the economy, has warned that loss-making enterprises face closure or drastic restructuring with the loss of millions of jobs.

Mr. Nekhayev, a leading free-market advocate and close ally of Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, said the plan was designed to guarantee the survival of strategic industries, including energy and food production.

But, in comments by ITAR-TASS news agency and the government newspaper Rossiyskiye Vesti, he said that state support would be mainly indirect and subsidies would be limited. Some firms would go to the wall.

"In the remaining months of 1992 and in 1993, major work lies ahead to pick out enterprises on the brink of bankruptcy, as a result of which they must be declared bankrupt and subjected to reorganisation, changes of profile and, in a number of cases, closure," Mr. Nekhayev said.

According to preliminary forecasts, the shake-up could leave seven million people or eight per cent of the workforce seeking jobs next year, he added.

Later official figures show that 850,000 Russians were out of work in August, already a steep rise from the Soviet period, when official unemployment was virtually nil.

Russia's economy, struggling to switch from communist central planning to the free market, is in deep crisis. Industrial output fell by 13 per cent from January to June.

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## Ethnic tensions 'worse than expected' in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) — There is "clear evidence" that Muslims are being forced to leave their Bosnia homes and some people were killed by "systematic shelling" of refugee convoys, peace envoy David Owen said Saturday.

Lord Owen and his fellow envoy, Cyrus Vance, told reporters in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, there was an "extreme urgency" to resume the Sarajevo aid airlift, which was suspended after an Italian aid plane was hit by a missile and crashed en route to the besieged Bosnian capital.

Mr. and Lord Owen, the co-chairmen of the Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia, travelled Friday to the northern Bosnian city of Banja Luka, a Serb stronghold, because of reports that Serbs were pressuring Muslims to leave the city.

Though Serb leaders deny pressuring Muslims, Mr. Vance said Friday: "We've not been fooled."

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen spoke to reporters again Saturday morning before boarding their plane from Zagreb to Geneva.

Lord Owen said the Muslim mufti in Banja Luka, the Roman Catholic bishop and the Eastern Orthodox patriarch had all confirmed that convoys of people were removed from Serb-held areas.

"Yesterday in Banja Luka we were given clear evidence of ethnic cleansing in Bosanski Petrovac and Kijuc," Lord Owen said, naming two towns about 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Banja Luka.

The envoys heard eyewitness accounts of how a column of 3,000 to 4,000 people was forced to give up money and possessions near the battle lines at Travnik, a town 70 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo.

"After the people were released from the buses, shots were fired. There was systematic shelling of the land across which they had to cross. A strong man wept when he watched this happening," Lord Owen said.

"There were casualties, and some people lost their lives."

"There is no question that this sort of thing cannot be allowed to go on," he said.

He said Serbs had been killed in one of the towns that was later "ethnically cleansed" of Muslims.

"You have to accept that in Bosanski Petrovac there was killing of some 16 Serbs, which undoubtedly ignited the atmosphere," Lord Owen said.

In Washington, senior Bush administration officials said the United States has reliable information up to 3,000 Muslims were killed in May and June at Serb-run detention camps near Brcko, about 120 kilometres north of Sarajevo, the New York Times reported in Saturday editions.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that reports had been received of up to 2,000 people killed in Serb camps. But the official said the State Department would not make an announcement until the actual casualty toll could be confirmed.

In Sarajevo, sniper fire wounded two people on the north side of the city Saturday morning. Bosnian government military officials said, while shelling hit Dobrinja, near the city's airport, and tank fire hit the northern district of Velest.

U.N. peacekeeping officials said a reconnaissance team will venture out Sunday to scout ways to repair the Sarajevo-Mostar rail line, which could be a vital link since winter will make road and air transport difficult.

A U.N. relief spokeswoman in Geneva said Friday that fighting around the airport meant there was little immediate hope of restarting a desperately needed airlift to rush supplies in before winter.

"We are racing against time," said Sylvana Foa, from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Even daily relief requirements are not being met, she said.

Only about 20 per cent of Sarajevo has electricity, and U.N. officials said no efforts to repair a war-damaged transformer are planned for the time being because the fighters do not observe ceasefires called to permit repair crews to work.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen said they made their surprise visit to Banja Luka because of reports that Serbs were pressuring Muslims to leave the city. U.N. officials have complained of being "forced to help previous 'ethnic cleansing,' evacuating threatened Muslims from other Bosnian communities to save their lives."



Armenian mourners in the border town of Shagap near Azerbaijan escort the coffin of a man killed during border clashes.

## Azeri-Armenian truce collapses within hours

MOSCOW (R) — The latest ceasefire between warring Armenia and Azerbaijan broke down within hours Saturday, with each side blaming the other.

Fresh fighting along the border between the two former Soviet republics and in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh smashed prospects for the Russian-mediated truce which took effect at midnight (2000 GMT) Friday.

Azeri presidential spokesman Tokif Valiyev said enemy forces had attacked Azeri border regions and the town of Agdam, just outside Karabakh.

"This confirmed the Azeri Defence Ministry's most pessimistic predictions that Armenia intends to exploit the ceasefire agreement to strengthen its military advantage," he said by telephone from the capital Baku.

Armenian presidential spokesman David Shakhnazarov told Interfax News Agency Azerbaijan had broken the ceasefire by shelling Karabakh villages and border regions of Armenia.

Armenia's Snark News Agency said Azerbaijan had launched a

tank offensive on villages in the east of Karabakh, which is encircled by Azeri territory but populated mainly by Armenians.

The enclave's Askeran region was under attack from Azeri artillery and multiple-launch Grad missiles, Snark said.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in four and a half years of fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the bloodiest of many ethnic conflicts inherited from the Soviet era.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said this week that if the truce failed, the only alternative would be to send United Nations peacekeepers to the Transcaucasus, possibly in conjunction with CIS forces.

The breakdown of the ceasefire followed the familiar pattern of numerous earlier peace accords, all of which have quickly collapsed.

It came despite a report by ITAR-TASS News Agency that both sides had agreed at talks in Moscow Friday to disengage forces and create a 10 kilometre buffer zone to which observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Geor-

gia would be given access.

Both sides pledged to withdraw heavy weaponry and exchange prisoners and bodies of victims, TASS said.

It quoted Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of Commonwealth Armed Forces, as saying that the introduction of CIS peacekeepers in Karabakh was "not far off."

Marshal Shaposhnikov said he had sent messages to the Armenian and Azeri leaders saying CIS forces were ready to help, but could only intervene at the request of both sides.

Mr. Valiyev, speaking from the Azeri capital Baku, said one Azeri had been killed and two wounded in the border fighting.

Interfax quoted Armenian sources as saying many people had been wounded and serious damage inflicted by Azeri shelling of the southeastern Armenian region of Goris.

The Pro-Armenian Karabakh News Agency said seven people were killed and 38 wounded in heavy Azeri shelling of Askeran Friday, which it said was accompanied by bombing raids on parts of Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Comoros military coup failed — French officials

PARIS (Agencies) — A military coup on the Comoros Islands has failed and president said Mohamed Djohar is still in power, French officials said Saturday.

They said the Comoros government regained control of the archipelago just hours after the army announced in a radio broadcast it had taken power.

The three-island chain remained calm throughout the events.

The officials said Mr. Djohar was currently in Paris on a visit prior to travelling to the Gabonese capital Libreville for the Franco-African summit on Oct. 5-7.

Mr. Djohar first took power after a band of white mercenaries briefly controlled the Comoros following the mysterious murder of President Ahmad Abdallah in December 1989.

He formed a government of national unity last January to heal the wounds of a severe political crisis that started last year when opposition leaders tried to have him removed on grounds of senility.

The archipelago won independence from France in 1975. Mayotte, a fourth island, chose to remain as a French territory.

The islands have been politically unsettled since the November 1989 slaying of then-President Ahmad Abdallah.

Denard, now living in South Africa, commanded Mr. Abdallah's presidential guard. He admitted being in the room when Mr. Abdallah was shot but denied pulling the trigger.

The Comoros' Ambassador in Paris, Sultan Chouhrouz, said Saturday's coup attempt was led by two sons of Mr. Abdallah, both of them junior army officers.

## Mandela, De Klerk meet, urge unity government

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. De Klerk and Nelson Mandela opened their long-awaited peace summit Saturday, urging speedy progress towards a national unity government and South Africa's first non-racial elections.

But both men — together for the first time in four months during which factional fighting has intensified — said violence had to be curbed before political progress could be made.

Flanked by their teams of negotiators, the president and the leader of the African National Congress (ANC) said they were confident their day-long meeting would lay the basis for renewed multi-party constitutional negotiations.

They would focus on violence that has claimed more than 1,000 lives since they last met in May. "We have come here in the hope that by the time this summit ends, a firm basis will have been laid for the resumption of negotiations," Mr. Mandela said.

"This is what our country yearns for."

"I hope that when we next meet we will be able to agree on dates for elections for a (popularly elected) Constituent Assembly and the installation of an interim government."

Standing at Mr. Mandela's side for opening speeches before the summit went into closed session, Mr. De Klerk said it was of "fundamental importance that we should move to... a government of national unity, a government of national reconciliation representing the major role players, as soon as possible."

"I believe that under the guidance of such a government... it is important that we then move as soon as possible to a full-fledged new constitutional dispensation."

But he warned peace negotiations could not succeed "while supporters of parties are fighting and killing each other."

On the summit agenda was "reconciliation", free political activity, the ANC's mass action campaign to topple white rule, covert operations, amnesty for past crimes and what the ANC calls repressive laws and the gov-

ernment terms security legislation.

Constitutional negotiations involving 19 parties representing blacks and whites collapsed in May when the ANC and the government failed to agree on power-sharing procedures during the transition to a full-fledged democracy.

The ANC subsequently pulled out of all negotiations in anger over the massacre of 43 people in Boipatong township in June, charging government complicity in violence.

The slaughter of at least 28 people by government troops in the nominally-independent black homeland Ciskei on Sept. 7 alarmed both sides and pushed them back towards talks.

The summit was arranged after 18 days of intensive negotiations which sources said may also have laid the basis for the ANC's return to full-scale negotiations.

It was announced Friday that the government had agreed to release 500 political prisoners listed by the ANC over coming months — 150 this weekend — to help break a deadlock blocking the summit. Other accords have been reached on dangerous weapons and migrant worker hostels, often township flash points.

But the sources stressed that the larger process required input from Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk, the two giants of South African politics, whose initially warm personal relationship went into deep freeze as a result of the violence.

Mr. Mandela, 74, and Mr. De Klerk, 20 years his junior, appeared in good humour at the public opening Saturday. Accepting Mr. De Klerk's invitation to speak first, Mr. Mandela quipped: "There is one respect in which I'm head and shoulders above Mr. De Klerk — that is in age."

He said both sides — the biggest black anti-apartheid organisation and the white party which introduced apartheid 44 years ago — had to try to rise above their emotions and backgrounds "in the interests of our common future."

## Column 100000

### New book expected to slash at Ted Kennedy's reputation

NEW YORK (R) — Ted Kennedy's already muddled reputation is expected to be tarnished even more next week when a self-confessed former cocaine addict publishes a "tell-all" book about his years working for the U.S. senator. Richard Burke was a top Kennedy aide for a decade until 1981 when he resigned in disgrace after faking death threats against himself, and the question now is can he be believed? Kennedy loyalists say no.

They call Mr. Burke a "sleaze" attempting a new hoax to get himself out of debt by writing a sensational book. Sen. Kennedy's Press Secretary Paul Donovan attacks Mr. Burke's credibility and says he won't be surprised if the book claims that Kennedy "went for a UFO ride with Elvis."

The New York Post Friday quoted sources familiar with the book, Senator 10 Years With Ted Kennedy, as saying a report of a UFO sighting is one of the few things it doesn't claim. The Post's report says the book details affairs and orgies that the younger brother of President John Kennedy took part and alleged drug use, including in 1980 when Sen. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter vied for the Democratic presidential nomination. The post quotes sources as saying Sen. Kennedy, who married for the second time earlier this year, once kept cocaine stashes in his home and office and snuffed a motorcade during the 1980 campaign so that he could get amyl nitrate, a once-legal drug.

California governor signs Gay Rights Bill

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — Governor Pete Wilson has signed a bill banning job discrimination against homosexuals, a year after his veto of similar legislation touched off rioting in San Francisco. The Republican governor's action makes California the largest of six states to enact laws protecting employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Conservatives and religious groups had bitterly opposed the bill, saying homosexuals did not deserve special job protections. When Mr. Wilson vetoed similar legislation in September 1991, up to 5,000 gay rights supporters demonstrated outside a state office building in San Francisco and some stormed past guards, breaking windows, setting one office ablaze and burning flags. The protest caused about \$250,000 in damage.

Magic Johnson quits from U.S. AIDS commission

LOS ANGELES (R) — Basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson resigned from the U.S. National Commission on AIDS, accusing President George Bush of "dropping the ball" in the fight against the deadly disease. Johnson, whose announcement last year that he had the HIV virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) shocked the world, said in a letter to Mr. Bush he could no longer serve on a body "whose important work is so utterly ignored by your administration."

Mr. Bush appointed Johnson, one of the nation's most visible AIDS patients, to the commission in January. Seven months later Johnson was on the U.S. "dream team" that won the gold medal in the summer Olympics in Barcelona. In his letter to Mr. Bush, Johnson recalled meeting the president in January. "I gave you a letter in which I expressed my hope that you would become more actively involved in the fight against AIDS," he said.

Boy wins 'divorce' from parents

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — A 12-year-old boy won a landmark child-rights case when a judge allowed him to "divorce" his parents and be adopted by his foster family. Gregory Kingsley flashed a huge smile when Judge Thomas Kirk issued a ruling ending the parental rights of his mother, Rachel Kingsley, and approving his adoption by his foster parents, George and Elizabeth Russ. Gregory, who now wants to be called Shawn Russ, turned to John Russ, one of his eight new brothers and sisters, and said, "hey, brother."

The family surrounded him, and his lawyer Terri Blair gave him a bright blue jersey and cap that said, "Shawn Russ." It bore the number 9, the number of children now in the Russ family. His new mother burst into tears.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Shevardnadze visits U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Eduard Shevardnadze, once foreign minister of the mighty Soviet Union, paid a sentimental journey to the United Nations Friday as president of "a small and powerless country." — Georgia — and found himself still deferred to as a diplomatic superstar. In a somewhat pessimistic address to the General Assembly, he spoke of the perils facing the republics of the former Soviet Union, particularly his own troubled land. "Now Georgia is independent again. But it is a fragile, defenceless independence," he lamented. "Impeded by the menace of civil war, the construction of the new statehood is slow." The entire Caucasus region, he warned, was now emerging as "a new hotbed of international tension," riddled with separatism and violence. "On a tiny part of the earth called Georgia, which history has chosen to crucify on the cross of geopolitics, have converged all woes and contradictions that the empire had fed into its own genetic code," said the white-haired Shevardnadze.

#### Brazilians rally for Collor's ouster

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Several hundred thousand protesters jammed downtown Rio in the city's largest rally for the impeachment of scandal-tainted President Fernando Collor De Mello. Police estimated more than 350,000 people packed Rio's Candelaria Square in the city's financial district to demand the resignation or impeachment of Mr. Collor, Brazil's first freely elected leader since 1960. The rally, organised by the Rio state government, opposition parties and Labour unions, was the second largest in the nation since early August when Brazilians took to the streets to call for Mr. Collor's removal. More than 700,000 people staged an anti-Collor rally on Sept. 18 in Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest and richest city. The festive crowd danced and chanted amid a sea of Brazilian flags and red, yellow, green and white banners that read "end the thief" and "Brazil has dignity." Police reported no violent incidents.

#### Marcos body to return on Nov. 1

MANILA (R) — Former first lady Imelda Marcos plans to fly home the remains of her late husband on Nov. 1 for burial in the northern Philippines, her lawyer said Saturday. "To give her more time, she decided that they will tentatively schedule it for Nov. 1," Antonio Coronel, the lawyer for the 63-year-old widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said in a radio interview. The Marcos family decided to push back the burial of the former president, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, because of problems in bringing his body back to the country. Imelda Marcos had planned to bury her husband in his home province of Ilocos Norte on his 75th birthday anniversary on Sept. 11, and later rescheduled the burial to Sept. 28, the third anniversary of his death. But the burial was postponed when she could not afford to charter an aircraft to return the body, and she later collapsed and spent eight days in hospital in Manila because of blood pressure problems.

#### Bush may accept nuclear test ban

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush is likely to sign into law a nine-month moratorium on U.S. nuclear testing and a 1996 halt to the testing, congressional and administration sources said. But Bush is likely to sign that law with a clear understanding that he will try to revise it later to allow U.S. nuclear testing beyond 1996, the sources said. They said congressional Democrats manoeuvred Mr. Bush into accepting the nuclear test ban by attaching it to a \$22 billion energy appropriation bill funding a huge supercollider scientific project in Texas that Mr. Bush wants. He could not veto the test ban without also vetoing \$517 million in the bill to continue construction of the supercollider.

#### Taiwan Imports ex-Soviet scientists

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan has hired 20 scientists from the former Soviet Bloc to help the island speed up technological research and development, the National Science Council said Saturday. A spokesman said the council would send an eight-member group Sunday to Russia to seek more scientific cooperation between the former Soviet republic and Taiwan. "We hope to bring in more Russian scientists to help speed up our technological research and development," he said.

## Independent commission aims to reform U.N.

GENEVA (R) — An new independent commission has met to study how to reform the United Nations, including its capacity to prevent bloody ethnic conflicts such as that in Yugoslavia.

The 28 individuals, including former ministers and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, hope to provide fresh ideas on global security.

Chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Shridath Ramphal, they will write their report for 1994, a year ahead of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Mr. Ramphal told a news briefing at the start of the commission's three-day talks: "Reform of the U.N. is a matter of central concern to the commission."

Sir Brian Urquhart, commission member and former U.N.

under secretary-general, said new approaches were needed to prevent ethnic tensions from evolving into bloody conflicts.

"It may be easier for independent people to discuss than governments... maybe we can preempt at least some of the horrendous conflicts we otherwise are likely to see in the next 10 to 15 years."

Reviving the U.N. Trusteeship Council as a forum for ethnic factions to meet "before the fighting explodes" was one possible mechanism for conflict prevention, Sir Brian said.

Mr. Carlsson said the commission's report probably would make recommendations on the composition of the U.N. Security Council.

Members said the Geneva-based commission was being funded by governments and foundations.

## Khmer Rouge to reject election result — Sihanouk

PHNOM PENH (R) — The hardline Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction will reject the results of U.N.-supervised elections in Cambodia, head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday.

"They've already let me know that the results of the elections will not be acceptable to them," Prince Sihanouk said.

He said the Khmer Rouge would not accept the election results because they say Vietnamese would illegally take part in next May's poll.

Prince Sihanouk made the comments during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, the first Western leader to visit Cambodia since last October's peace accord designed to end more than two decades of turmoil and civil war.

Only the Khmer Rouge refuse to cooperate with full imple-

mentation of the Paris peace agreement signed by all four Cambodian political factions.

The group says the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is supervising the peace process, should verify the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese soldiers from Cambodia before the election.

UNTAC has discovered no troops from Vietnam but there are hundreds of thousands of settlers.

The Khmer Rouge have also refused to accept UNTAC's new electoral law on voter rights, claiming it favours Vietnamese settlers.

Prince Sihanouk said he anticipated a presidential election before the poll for the Constituent Assembly, saying a president should be elected first to prevent a possible political crisis.

## Bush tries to get his campaign on track

COLOMBUS, Ohio (R) — President George Bush hoped to get his struggling reelection campaign back on track Saturday with a whistle-stop train tour of Ohio and Michigan, but the possible return of Ross Perot sidetracked much of the enthusiasm.

Mr. Bush was to board the "Spirit of America" for a two-day swing designed to rekindle images of Harry Truman's stunning win a 1948. Mr. Truman campaigned heavily by train and wrestled victory from what was considered certain defeat.

The push to pump new life into the campaign as the Nov. 3 election nears suffered a blow as speculation mounted that Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire, would return to the campaign trail.

Mr. Perot, who withdrew his independent candidacy in July, has suggested he may reconsider his decision. The Los Angeles Times reported that he would re-enter the race Monday.

In a sign of the clout Mr. Perot holds in the campaign, he asked both Mr. Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton to send envoys to meet with him and his workers in Dallas Monday — and both political camps agreed almost immediately.

"We may make some converts there," Mr. Bush told reporters during a campaign stop in Chicago Friday.

The threat of a possible return by Perot clearly dampened the spirits of Bush campaign officials — with some openly annoyed when reporters broached the subject.

Others were more philosophical, but they too acknowledged that

the shadow cast by the diminutive Perot could wreck havoc on campaign strategy.

"It's just a big question mark," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said of Perot. "You can construct a scenario where it helps both candidates and hurts both candidates," Mr. Fitzwater said. "We just don't know."

Mr. Bush seemed subdued during his public appearances throughout the day Friday, including at an evening event in Chicago aimed at showing union support for his reelection.

Less than 100 people showed up in a room that could easily have held many more.

Despite some public opinion polls that show Mr. Bush trailing Mr. Clinton by a wide margin, Republican insiders insist their data show the gap is no more than 10 percentage points.

At this stage in the presidential race, however, that margin offers Mr. Bush small comfort — since even his supporters acknowledge the president has been unable to cut into the lead held by the Arkansas governor.

Meanwhile, a former national security aide was quoted Saturday as saying he told Mr. Bush in the spring of 1986 that the United States was trading arms to Iran to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

The New York Times quoted Howard Teicher as saying Mr. Bush, who was then vice president, appeared interested in the topic and asked pertinent questions but seemed reluctant to get involved in decision-making on the hotly-debated issues.

"I briefed him in detail on

aspects of the Iran initiative on several occasions," said Mr. Teicher, who worked for the National Security Council as a Middle East expert from 1982 to 1987 and now operates a computer software company.

"He was extremely well informed about foreign affairs and extremely interested, yet I found a pattern of behaviour that was a desire to be very well informed but not to be involved on any issue that was controversial," Mr. Teicher said.

Mr. Bush has repeatedly asserted that he knew generally about the arms sales to Iran but did not realise they involved a direct swap for hostages. He says he was "not in the loop" for direct briefings on the matter.

Asked about the arms sales, which have become an issue in the presidential campaign, Mr. Bush told a Chicago radio station on Friday: "I believe I've levelled with the American people, and I have nothing to add to it."

But Richard Secord, an operative in the scheme, said in a U.S. television interview Friday that Mr. Bush was not telling the truth.

But think the record ought to be straightened out on this issue... the notion that he (Bush) didn't know anything or didn't know much about the Iran-central initiative is just not correct," Mr. Secord said.

President Bush Friday said he and Vice President Dan Quayle would take a 10 per cent pay cut as part of a bill slashing the salaries of other highly-paid federal employees, including members of Congress, by five per cent.

He asked the Democratic-dominated Congress to approve the legislation by the time it adjourns at the end of next week.

But that was a most unlikely prospect given the time constraints, the amount of other legislation pending, and the political acrimony such a proposal was likely to create in an election year.

Meanwhile, Gulf war commander General Norman Schwarzkopf said in a television interview Friday that he does not feel Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has adequately explained his draft status during the Vietnam War.

Appearing on the ABC television programme "20/20," Gen. Schwarzkopf also said he has a "knee-jerk concern" as a career military man that neither his one-time boss, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, nor Vice President Dan Quayle served in Vietnam.

During the interview, Gen. Schwarzkopf hailed President Bush as a superb commander-in-chief and said representatives of both Clinton and Perot asked him if he would consider being a vice-presidential candidate.

The general, who said he rejected the offers because he is "apolitical," said he didn't believe a president had to have military experience to become commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces.

But he added about Mr. Clinton, "that's not the question, to my mind, the question is what is a president... who formerly openly approved of draft resistance and resistance to war going to do if he has to order people to war?"